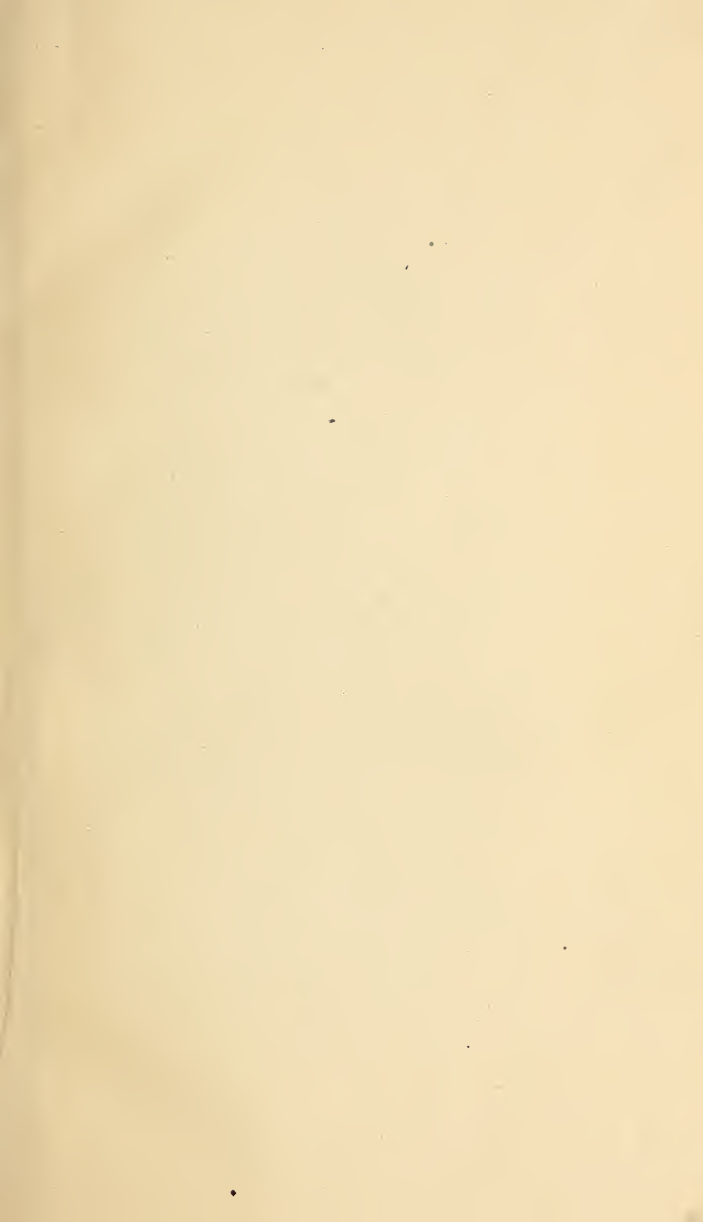


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DOBELL COLLECTION



JOURNAL,

&c. &c.

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JOURNAL

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OF A

Five Weeks Tour,

THROUGH

HANOVER, WESTPHALIA,

AND THE

NETHERLANDS.

IN JULY AND AUGUST, 1818.

BY HENRY LEWIS STUTZER.

LONDON :

1819.

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TO THOSE

FROM WHOM I HAVE RECEIVED

PROOFS OF FRIENDSHIP, OR GOOD-WILL,

I DEDICATE THIS WORK.

THE AUTHOR.



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A

JOURNAL,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

DEPARTURE FROM LONDON,—ARRIVAL AT
CUXHAVEN,—JOURNEY TO HANOVER.

WE took leave of our friends, in one of the suburbs of London, on the evening of the 10th July, 1818, and went to the Spread-Eagle, Gracechurch-street, hoping that we might enjoy a few hours sleep, previous to the commencement of

B

our journey ; but the noise caused by the ostlers, the arrival of carriages, and a person in the coffee-room, in a complete state of intoxication, was so great and incessant, that our eyes were shut only for a few minutes. We were called at two o'clock, and shortly after mounted the roof of a coach, which conveyed the mails for Germany and Holland to Harwich, and bade farewell to the metropolis of England.

The morning, though cloudy, was beautiful ; we were but little incommoded by dust, for some slight showers of rain had fallen during the night, particularly in the neighbourhood of Colchester, of which the husbandman was everywhere availing himself, and Essex never appeared to greater advantage. The orchards were abounding with fruit, and the finest fields of wheat were nearly fit for the sickle. It

was fifteen years since I had last travelled the same road, and I thought I perceived great improvement in the outward appearance of the country. There were certainly many more new houses in the towns and villages, and the hedges and fences bore marks of greater attention, a proof of increasing prosperity. We arrived at the White-Hart-Inn, Harwich, about one o'clock, and, having transacted our business at the Custom-house, where we were treated with civility by the officers, sat down to a comfortable dinner with half-a-dozen other travellers. At four o'clock we paid our bill, and went towards the harbour. For Cuxhaven! for Holland! vociferated by some of the crew of the packets, soon collected the respective travellers in the Custom-house-boats, which were to conduct them to their vessels. Thus, at half-past four

o'clock, my young friend and I found ourselves on board the **Beaufoy** Post-office-packet, commanded by Captain **Norris**.

The number of passengers amounted to eleven, one of whom was a young English lady, going, with her husband, a German, to **Hamburg**, their usual place of residence. Our captain had not lately been favoured with so much company, and appeared, therefore, very glad to see us. We had but little wind from the south, and a considerable time was spent in rounding **Landguard-fort** ; nevertheless, the variety of scenery produced by this low, sandy point, with the fort and martello towers on one side, and the town of **Harwich** and its citadel on the other ; and, above all, that serenity and quiet, which attend a passage by sea, was to us highly gratifying, and we did not in the least re-

gret the slowness of our progress. The evening being remarkably fine and warm, I kept on deck till ten o'clock. The coast of Suffolk was constantly in our view.

I rose early next morning, very much refreshed by a sound sleep. It had been raining since three A.M. At nine o'clock the weather cleared up, and most of the company went on deck. Very little way had been made during the night, for we were only ten leagues from Harwich; but no land was visible. Breakfast was now announced, consisting of tea, coffee, eggs, boiled beef, and lobsters, on which we feasted with a good appetite. The interval between breakfast and dinner was chiefly occupied in walking on deck, and partly in calculating the time it would take to arrive at Cuxhaven, and the result already began to excite lamentations.

We met several brigs bound for England, and now and then saw a sea-bird or two. At two P.M. we were but fifty miles from Harwich. This was our dinner-hour, and we sat down to beef-broth, mullet, and lamb; and passed the time over our port and claret very agreeably till four o'clock, when we again went on deck. The weather was hot and delightful, but the wind died so completely away, that we appeared to stand still, and the surface of the sea was as smooth as glass. While thus becalmed, we observed, about six o'clock, that the water, at a short distance from us, became suddenly ruffled, though not a breath of air was stirring, and soon found that it was occasioned by a shoal of young herrings; they were playing on the surface, and the rays of the sun reflecting on their silvery coat, as they jumped out of the water, rendered the sight very

amusing ; they were attended by a number of sea-birds watching for their prey. As the day declined I enjoyed the magnificent spectacle of the setting sun ; what can be more grand and sublime ! How could so many of my companions prefer the close air of a small cabin to such a scene as the setting of the sun in one part of the horizon, and the rising of the moon in another ! Next morning, the thirteenth, I arose before daylight, and, as usual, passed my time on deck. A slight breeze from the N.W. had sprung up in the night, and we were now going at the rate of from three to four knots an hour. Towards noon the wind freshened, and, at half past one, we were seven leagues off the Texel, in about sixteen fathoms water of a deep blackish green. Land was visible from the mast-head. As night approached the wind veered round to the

S.E. blowing fresh, about six knots. Symptoms of sea-sickness, with its distressing effects, now became manifest; but, myself, and my young friend, kept perfectly free from it. The following night was very comfortless; the wind had shifted to the north, blowing hard, and several of the company were extremely ill, particularly the young lady, who, fancying the vessel was every moment going down, was crying and calling out for her husband. Tired with what I saw and heard below, and the dawn of the morning beginning to appear, I stepped on deck, but was, at that instant, saluted with a tremendous wave, which dashed over me and the deck, and would have knocked me down, had I not fortunately seized part of the rigging; the sea was, indeed, running very high, for the wind blew strong from the north, and we were al-

ready getting into shallow water. At six we passed Heligoland, about three miles north. It was too hazy to perceive the town, but I could clearly distinguish the outline of this remarkable rock, which is distant about forty miles from the Hanoverian coast. At nine o'clock we could see the light-house, and some of the buildings of Bake, a village on Newwark, a low sandy island at the mouth of the Elbe, gained from the sea; and, at eleven A.M. of Tuesday, the 14th of July, were safe in the wooden harbour of Cuxhaven, having run a distance of three hundred and twenty miles in about sixty-eight hours.

Our vessel was hardly fastened to the shore, on which a considerable number of persons, many of whom well-dressed, were assembled to witness our arrival, when the deck was thronged with people,

some requesting the honor of our company at their masters' hotels; others to carry our baggage, or offering their boats for a passage up the river to Hamburg or Altona. Being a perfect stranger in the place, we went to an inn recommended to us by the young lady, our late fellow-traveller, on account of the obliging disposition of its hostess, and her moderate charges; and, having bid farewell to our late companions, engaged a man to take care of our luggage, consisting of two small leather trunks and a basket, the whole weight not exceeding an hundred pounds. We were, therefore, greatly surprised, on turning round, as we walked towards Ritzbittel, to see so slight a burden resting on the shoulders of three athletic men, though one might have carried it with great ease, and, I believe, had we added our sticks and great coats

to the charge, when we left the packet-boat, three or four additional men would have graced our train. This is an imposition, and ought to be put a stop to by the police. They demanded two marcs, about three shillings English, for their trouble, which, considering the relative value of money in the two countries, is exorbitant; but, finding I could speak German and even express myself in their native dialect, they took what it pleased me to give them, and parted apparently satisfied.

The inn which had been recommended to us I found to be but little superior, in point of accommodation, to an English country ale-house; but I had not been seated many minutes, on an old chair, with a leather cover, in a room strewn with coarse sand, and strongly smelling of tobacco, when my kind-hearted landlady

came running in with a plate-full of very fine strawberries for my young friend, inviting him, at the same time, into her garden, and to eat of the fruit with which every tree and bush was covered; and, shortly after, her fair daughter brought, uncalled for, some strong beef broth, thinking it might be pleasant after so long a passage by sea.

It being now but twelve o'clock, and having resolved to stop all night, we employed our time, before dinner, in taking a view of the town and neighbourhood.

Ritzbittel is situated near the mouth of the Elbe, or rather upon the sea, on a fertile spot of land, belonging to Hamburg. It lies so low that it can be preserved from inundation only by high sea-banks, one of which unites it to Cuxhaven, about a quarter of a mile distant, which contains a small wooden harbour,

fit only for vessels of low draught. The town may contain about three hundred houses, which have nothing remarkable in their appearance. Their shape resembles that of a large barn with its gabel end towards the street; the lower part containing the dwelling rooms of the family, and the upper part, or loft, being appropriated to the keep of provisions or provender. There is hardly a respectable looking house to be met with, nor can this circumstance excite surprise when it is considered that but a few years have elapsed since it became one of the stations for English packet-boats, and that no improvement could be expected while in possession of French douaniers. An attempt is, however, now making to add to its consequence, by converting it into a bathing place, and several machines, like those on the coasts of England, are provided for

that purpose ; but, the spot, where they are used, being at least a mile and a half from the town, and the neighbourhood possessing nothing attractive, it can never be expected that the lounging part of mankind will become fond of it. The novelty of the thing, and the fine weather, had, nevertheless, collected many persons from Hamburg and Altona, and several even from the interior of Germany, among whom was a princess of Detmold and her children. Our inn also contained several of these bathers, the figure and costume of one of whom struck me with astonishment. It was a man neither tall nor short, apparently between thirty and forty years of age, remarkably corpulent, with a head as round as a ball, a mouth, nose, and chin very handsome, dark blue eyes, the keenest I had ever met with, and ruddy healthy cheeks, almost wholly co-

vered with his mustaches and whiskers, his neck and breast perfectly bare; a short cloak of dark grey cloth, lined with fur, was carelessly slung on his shoulders over a shirt which had, probably, not been changed for a month; and a pair of long military pantaloons covered the less noble parts of this sweet personage, who was a colonel of Prussian Hulans. No leader of banditti could look more frightful; yet, when conversing, in the evening, with some of his friends, in a dense cloud of tobacco smoke, he discovered signs of a good education and good manners.

As the summer had been unusually dry, I determined not to proceed by the common road, over Stade, but to cross the unfrequented moors between Cuxhaven and Bederkesa, and, accordingly, ordered extra post to be ready by four in the morning of the following day. At the

appointed hour our carriage was at the door ; it consisted of a light four-wheeled open waggon, the sides of the body being of wicker work ; three wooden benches, covered with yellow plush cushions, were slung across, that in front being owned by the postillion, a young man in a blue jacket with a brass bugle horn slung over his shoulders. This vehicle was drawn by two strong horses, with rope traces, and I paid in advance eleven marcs, or about fourteen English shillings, for a distance of eighteen miles.

We proceeded at a gentle trot two or three miles, through a low, swampy, but fertile country. There were fields of wheat, beans, and barley of a very promising appearance, but nearly in a green state ; and the farm-houses, by the roadside, were large and seemed commodious. But the country soon became sandy, and

the ground was covered with rye, oats, and buck-wheat, and so thin that it could hardly repay for the trouble of sowing. An old woman here requested the driver's permission, not mine, to occupy the seat behind us, and without farther ceremony took possession of it.

At a short distance from Altenwald, the first Hanoverian village on this side, we entered upon an extensive heath, and our attention was soon arrested by several small circular mounds of earth, evidently artificial. It was the country of the lesser Chaucians of Tacitus, and of the Saxons who settled in England, in the fifth century, we were now traversing; and the tumuli, that everywhere occurred to our view, were the funeral monuments of their chieftains, neither injured by time nor man. They differed considerably in size, but by far the greater number mea-

sured about twenty feet in diameter ; one or two which we passed were, however, much larger. Seeing, not far from the road-side, a heap of stones, which, at first, I conjectured to be a shepherd's hut, I asked the postillion what they were intended for,—he replied, it was a kind of a vault, but could not tell for what purpose. This answer not satisfying us, we descended from our carriage, and went about a furlong on our left to examine the spot more minutely. They were huge masses of red granite, rudely piled one over another, and enclosing an empty space, about eight feet long and four wide ; a block of many tons weight had formed the roof, but had fallen down and broke into several pieces. Our conductor and the old woman perceiving us so much interested in those antiquities, told us, that on our right, about two miles distant, there

was a heap of stones of much larger dimensions, and that upon one of them was carved the figure of a giant. We regretted very much that our time would not permit us to go in search of this relic of the ancient Germans, which, I doubt not, would have well rewarded our trouble. We counted about thirty barrows upon this heath, within the space of three or four miles.

As we approached Neuenwald the country became woody and much improved in soil and appearance. This is a village of considerable size. Here we breakfasted and changed horses. Before the inn, which was likewise the post-house, was drawn up a troop of Hanoverian lancers, who were to receive their pay and undergo a periodical inspection. It was a remarkable fine body of young men, many of whom wore the Waterloo

medal, and one was decorated, in addition, with the badge of some order, attached to his breast with a green riband. Nothing could exceed the beauty of their horses.

It was ten o'clock before we left this place. Our equipage was similar to the former, but drawn by two very fine horses, one of which, though twelve years old, would not have disgraced an English curricule in Hyde-Park, so light and elegant was its form. The owner, a common peasant, who drove us, was not a little proud of it, and spoke with great feeling of its many escapes, as the French had formerly more than once fixed their eyes upon it. This man appeared to be a good-natured soul, and, after taking a dram and lighting his pipe, at the first public-house we met with, seemed well inclined to enter into con-

versation with us. I asked him some questions about the barrows which here, also, were extremely numerous; for, at the beginning of a small common, close by the roadside, we counted seven within the space of half an acre. He said they contained great quantities of stones, mostly of a small size, so many, indeed, that they had lately been used for paving a road near his village; that earthen pots, but nothing else, had frequently been found in them, and that his Amtman, or magistrate, had offered a dollar for one in a perfect state. He had no notion of the origin of those little hills, and expressed great surprise when I told him, they were the burying places of some of his forefathers. "Yes," he said, "there are many curious things about here; at some distance on our left, opposite to the public-house where

“ I took my dram, you saw a large sheet
“ of water; now I will tell you some-
“ thing about that: on that same spot
“ there was formerly, but nobody can
“ tell how long ago, a large town, called
“ *Heaven* or *Haden*,” so I understood
him, for every word was not intelligible
to me, as he could only speak in the
broad low Saxony dialect, “ but all the
“ people in it were wicked, very wicked
“ indeed, so the whole place suddenly
“ sunk into the earth, and what was
“ once a town is now a lake.” Perceiving
that I would not attach implicit credit
to his tale, he continued, “ it is all true,
“ what I tell you, for many spectres
“ have been seen to come from it at night
“ and, on one occasion, a boat, which
“ was fishing on it for eels, was, in the
“ twinkling of an eye, overturned, and
“ pulled under the water with all the

“ people in it, and nobody ever after
“ saw any thing more of it or them.”

Tacitus, in his work on the Manners of the Germans, states, that such as had been guilty of great crimes were suffocated in bogs and fens; and it is not unlikely that the story of this artless peasant may derive its origin from that custom, handed down by tradition, from father to son, through a space of more than seventeen centuries. In an old map of this district, in my possession, I find a spot, in this neighbourhood, called Heidenstadt, which, literally translated, signifies a place inhabited by heathens.

We now entered upon a common which had but recently been the site of a forest; for the stumps of oak-trees, of the largest dimensions, were still visible; I was told that the ground was

church-land, and, timber not being wanted, the trees had been suffered to grow till quite hollow, when they were sold for fuel. Some of them must have been between four and five feet in diameter. The country hereabouts was less sandy and bare, small woods of fir and other species of trees being frequent. This was but a short stage, and between twelve and one we arrived at Bederkesa.

The postmaster, in a long great coat, with a clean white cotton nightcap on his head, and a long pipe in his mouth, welcomed us as we entered his house ; and, having received our orders for horses, began to ask us a series of questions ; where we came from ; to what place we were going ; the object of our journey ; even our names he wished to know, and whether we were Englishmen or Germans ; to all which interrogatories, which in

England would have sounded extremely impertinent, but which were almost excusable in a place so deserted and out of the way as this, I returned such answers as I thought proper. He charged us for only three German miles to Bremervorde, though the distance was in reality much greater; and not having sufficient small money to pay him, I produced a double Prussian Frederic-d'or, worth about £1 : 14 : 0. He returned in a short time with a handful of Hanoverian three-penny pieces, made of a composition of silver and copper, containing on one side the figure of a galloping horse, the armorial bearing of the house of Hanover, and on the other the value and denomination of the coin. Looking at it with some curiosity, he launched out in praises of its intrinsic excellence, though the copper was visibly predominating, saying

it was the best in all Germany, and was, therefore, daily becoming scarcer, which I found to be the fact. While our horses were getting ready, we took a view of this little town, which hardly merits that name, not being superior to a large village, but found nothing to attract our attention, except a stork's nest upon the top of a farm-house; for this long-legged bird is regarded with a superstitious veneration, and it is firmly believed that the house which it favours with a visit, must prosper when thus protected.

Our new postillion was an athletic young man, in the Hanoverian Post-office uniform, strongly marked with that family resemblance of countenance, which I had observed generally to prevail in this part of the country, high cheek-bones, a projecting nose and chin, blue eyes, light hair, and fair complexion.

He appeared very good-natured and intelligent, and asked many questions respecting the agriculture of England. I therefore tried to give him an idea of some of the distinguishing features of English husbandry, such as drilling and horse-hoeing, of which he was totally ignorant. Any contrivance by which the produce of the soil is increased or facilitated is a great blessing every where, but would be particularly so in the district through which we were travelling. It was a mass of sand in the literal sense of the word, producing here and there some miserable crops of rye and oats, so scanty from the natural sterility of the soil and the want of rain, that I am persuaded the average produce of an acre could not exceed four bushels. Buckwheat, however, the general food of the peasantry in this part of Germany, looked

somewhat more promising. From this description of the country we were in, one might be led to believe, that the landscape appeared wretched and melancholy, but this is far from being the case. It is not a sandy plain on which the eye in vain seeks for an object to rest upon ; there was a continued undulation of surface ; the most charming woods of oak or fir broke the chain of uniformity, and now and then the high and pointed spire of a village church, appearing unexpectedly over a group of farm-houses and orchards, made us almost forget the poverty of the soil we trod on.

Though we had now passed over a space of more than forty miles, we had seen but one flock of sheep, yet the short grass which abounds on the extensive wastes would afford food for thousands ; this, I think, can only be attributed to

the difficulty of preserving those valuable animals during a dreary winter of seven months, when the ground is covered with ice and snow. That, under such circumstances, the population should be scanty is self-evident; accordingly, I never, in my life, except among the mountains of North Wales, met with so few people on any road;—a gentleman on horseback, a man with a gun on one shoulder, and a shooting-bag, made of the skin of a wild boar, slung over the other, and two peasants so fast asleep in their carts, that it required a tune from the postillion's horn, close to their ears, to rouse them, were all the travellers we met during four hours. But if of the living there be few, there is no lack of the monuments of the dead. One tumulus succeeded another, and the stones, in such as had been opened, were all of the largest size. There

was one barrow in a wood, upon the top of which oak-trees were growing, and the earth had recently been sufficiently removed to show the manner in which the stones were placed; these were blocks of granite, of several tons weight, disposed in a form very similar to the rude vault on the moor near Altenwalde, which we went to see in the morning; and this similarity makes me think that the latter was an unfinished sepulchre, which it had been intended to cover with earth, as in the case of all the other barrows. Near the road, upon a large common, we also perceived a circular hollow space about fifty or sixty feet in diameter, and about four feet deep, quite level at the bottom; it could not have been designed to answer the purpose of a reservoir of water, for why, in that case, should the form be exactly circu-

lar? besides, there was plenty of water in the neighbourhood; nor did it appear to have been the site of any building. Another relic of antiquity was visible on our left, a few miles from Bremervorde, and about three quarters of a mile distant from the road near the edge of a wood of young firs, but we lost the opportunity of examining it closely, which I much regret; for I had mistaken a large mass of whitish stones, piled one over another, with a great number of a smaller size lying round it, for a hut or shed in the midst of a flock of sheep, and it was not till we had passed the spot several miles that our driver directed my attention to it. I would willingly have returned to take a view of it, but we had been exposed for hours to a scorching sun upon a road of loose sand, into which the wheels were sinking a foot deep, and

were all fatigued and longing for some refreshment; we, therefore, went on at a slow rate, and, at length, between five and six o'clock, arrived at a comfortable inn at Bremervorde.

The landlord, who spoke a little English, received us with great civility, and ushered us into a large well-furnished room, the best we had seen since our departure from Cuxhaven; and in less than ten minutes, a female servant placed before us a shoulder of venison of the most delicious flavour, with a bottle of very good French white wine, for the whole of which, to our great surprise, they charged but three shillings and sixpence.

There is something neat and comfortable in the outward appearance of this little town, which is situated upon the navigable river Oste, which falls into the Elbe, and carries on some trade. The

population appears to be increasing, for we saw land which had recently been cultivated for the first time. We stopped about an hour, and then proceeded onward to Zeven, famous for the convention concluded in the early part of the seven years' war, between the Duke of Cumberland and the French, by which his army became neutralized for some time. The country bore the same features as north of Bremervorde; extensive heaths, forests of oak and pine, and here and there some cultivated ground sown with buck-wheat, rye, and barley, which, for want of rain, looked miserable. The sun had set some time when we entered a large wood, abounding with deer and wild boars: the moon was at its full, and whenever a chasm occurred among the trees, burst upon us in all its splendour. There was something

awful in this scene, which seemed even to affect our guide; for in the very heart of this gloomy assemblage of majestic pines, whose tops appeared to touch the clouds, he took his bugle from his side, and played a melancholy ditty, the effect of which, in the dead stillness of the night, and in such a place, it is impossible to describe.

It was late before we arrived at Zeven, and the people at the post-house were gone to bed; but the postillion's horn soon brought a couple of handsome-looking peasant girls upon their legs, not at all cross at being thus disturbed, who, with extraordinary celerity, prepared some excellent coffee for us. We slept very soundly, after having disencumbered ourselves of half our feather-beds; for, in this country, you have as much bedding over you as under; and at five

o'clock in the morning of the 16th of July we were ready to start.

Our carriage and horses were wretched, and the driver, to be in unison, proved to be a stupid phlegmatic fellow, but not an ill-tempered man. To render our situation still worse, it began to rain the moment we left the inn, and it ceased not for several hours; and, having no cover but our great coats, we were very uncomfortably situated. The country was woody and not unpleasant, but the deep sand and heavy rain made our progress very slow, and never had we longed for English carriages and English roads so much as at this moment. The time we were travelling seemed eternal, and we felt a strong inclination to grumble, when suddenly, and as by enchantment, we found ourselves upon a magnificent paved causeway. It was the

work of Napoleon Bonaparte to facilitate the communication between Hamburg and Bremen, and its permanent utility is some slight compensation for the manifold evils which he inflicted upon the poor Hanoverians. This road runs through Rothenbourg, where we soon after arrived. It is a small neat country town, which contains several good houses. We were here, for the first time, treated with a covered carriage. It was something like the body of a chariot fixed upon a waggon, and, in spite of its rotten condition and unsightly look, greatly preferable, in bad weather, to the open vehicle in which we had hitherto moved.

At a short distance from the town, on our way to Walsrode, we met a considerable number of men and women busily employed in the construction of the new road, which is to extend from the city

of Hanover to the coast. Some parts were already finished and in use; but, from the specimen we saw, I doubt of its utility being so great as one might be led to think; it was broad and high in the middle, but, being simply formed of the loose sand obtained by cutting a ditch on each side, the wheel moves on no solid substance, and sinks deep into it. To remedy this defect, it would be necessary either to vary the breadth of the wheel, according to the weight it is intended to support, or to pave the road. But to the former there are some important objections: unless the different governments of Germany were to agree in establishing uniform regulations upon that head, which should be binding to all their subjects, the intercourse between one state and another would be more impeded than facilitated; and such

regulations could only emanate from a General Council of the nation, like that now assembled at Francfort. At a future period, when a long and uninterrupted peace has healed the wounds inflicted by revolutionary France on the Continent, the obvious advantage of a ready communication all over Germany will, it is to be hoped, lead to the adoption of such measures. Another objection is the great expense to individuals, which, in the present exhausted state of their finances, they would be unable to bear. The wheels of a peasant's waggon, in this country, are the most expensive parts of it; and the acquisition of a new waggon is to him a momentous subject. To pave the road appears to be more feasible, and nothing but the vast capital it would require can prevent its being done. Stone, fit for

that purpose, abounds in every part of this sandy district. A few miles westward of Walsrode we passed over a large common, on which the strata of granite, which I have no doubt lie at no great depth under the sand, are laid bare; and the large fragments, which at short intervals jut from the surface, give it, at a distance, an appearance somewhat similar to a church-yard. In another place, also, on this road, the inhabitants of a large village are in every dry season greatly distressed for water; and we were told, that every attempt to obtain it by digging wells had failed, there being an impenetrable barrier of rocks, below the upper beds, which stops their progress.

The weather cleared up towards noon, and, the sun shining bright, our journey became very pleasant. Although the soil

continued to be sandy, the country, in general, in this neighbourhood, bore some marks of improvement and comfort; there was more cattle, though but a lank miserable breed; the waste commons were less numerous and extensive; the surface displayed greater variety of feature, and was woody, and potatoe-fields, carefully hand-hoed, occurred frequently. The houses of the villagers were large and more convenient than one might have expected in so barren a country. The frame is generally of oak, and instead of brick, lath or wattling is used, which is plastered over with clay, and white-washed. The right and left side, as you enter the door, which is wide enough to admit a loaded waggon, is occupied by stables for the horses and cows, over which the provender is kept; at the farther end, and opposite the

door, you see a large fire-hearth on the ground, and round an immense chimney are suspended hams, bacon, pigs' heads, and sausages, as black as the smoke which ascends from a large log of wood, or peat, and which preserves those dainties for the Sunday's dinner; and behind this hearth there are two, and sometimes three rooms, in which no wood is wasted on floors, nor glass on windows; one of which, the parlour, contains an iron stove, a large square wooden table, and round it a bench fixed in the wall, or a few wooden chairs; and, if the owner be a wealthy man, you see, moreover, a Dutch clock ticking in a corner; his treasury, his wardrobe, and his library, consisting of a Bible and hymn-book, are carefully guarded in his sleeping-apartment, and an immense oak trunk,

generally bearing marks of great antiquity, in some nook near the fire-place, contains the dower of the fair, bare-footed, daughter, a valuable stock of linen, which the provident mother has early taught her to collect by her own industry. Over the door, on the outside of the house, you invariably see some sentence from the sacred Scriptures, carved in Gothic characters, together with the name of the man and his wife who built the mansion, and the date of its erection ; and not unfrequently a target, painted in the gayest colours, won at the annual shooting-match, after the feast of St. John, is firmly fixed near the gable top, a monument of the skill of the successful competitor. Thus, in the dreary nights of a German winter, the peasant shuts his door, sits near a blazing fire,

surrounded by his family and his cattle, and enjoys his pipe, while the females spin or knit.

We dined at a very good inn at Walsrode, a clean well-built little town, situated upon the Bohme, a small river which flows into the Aller. The dinner was extremely good, and to us uncommonly cheap. We had excellent soup, three sorts of fish, boiled and roasted meat, dressed in various fashions, salad, and several kinds of vegetables, for which, with a bottle of wine, they charged five shillings. The country from this place to Hadensdorff was the most romantic we had seen since putting our feet on German ground. Near the rivulet many fertile fields were feeding great numbers of horses and cows, and the sand-hills, gently rising on both sides, were crowned with oak or fir woods, or

in a state of cultivation. At the pleasant village of Hademulen, a barge of considerable dimension was building, and, in a few minutes, we found ourselves upon the banks of the navigable Aller, which is here, after its junction with the river Leine, of as great a breadth as the Thames, near Richmond. Many of the houses of the farmers, in the villages we passed through, were very large and built of brick, and every thing bore the appearance of increasing wealth and comfort. We also perceived a striking difference in the form and countenance of the people ; the females, in particular, were of a more slender make, and had softer and more handsome features ; blue eyes and light hair still prevailed.

It had been my plan and wish to reach Hanover this evening ; but it was six o'clock before we arrived at Hadens-

dorff; we therefore resolved to stop the night at Mollendorff, one post from the capital. The distances between the places are, in many instances, so erroneously laid down on the maps and routes, that we were constantly apt to miscalculate. Thus, at one post-office, I was made to pay for about fourteen English miles, when I expected to be charged for ten; at another, in the early part of our journey, we paid for only fifteen, though the distance proved to be more than twenty. Having mentioned this circumstance to one of the post-masters, he smiled:—"formerly," he said "we had long miles; when we were saddled with the French they became short, and now, I suppose, we shall have long miles again, as the roads have recently been measured a second time. Some of the French surveyors, who

“ were ordered to ascertain the distances
“ from one post to another on this road,
“ would take a bribe, and, if you could
“ slip a good round sum into their
“ pockets, would not scruple to make a
“ stage a little longer than it really was,
“ and so the post-master got good in-
“ terest for his money.”

When the moon rose we had again to pass a large forest, so extensive we were told that, in one direction, a pedestrian might travel a whole day under the shade of trees. We arrived at Mollendorff towards midnight, and being much fatigued, retired almost immediately to bed. We left this place about eight in the morning with four horses, the post-master, a civil young man, having given us two horses gratis; so that we entered the capital of his Britannic Majesty's German dominions in a comparatively

grand style. We had a first glimpse of this city from a sandy eminence, soon after we left the inn; and its four high steeples, with the majestic hills of the southern division of the kingdom, formed a picture by no means uninteresting. Thus at noon on Friday, the 17th of July, we found ourselves in Hanover, having been occupied two days and a half in going the distance of about 140 English miles, and at an expense of £8 : 8 : 6, including refreshments.

CHAP. II.

HANOVER AND ITS ENVIRONS.—EXCURSIONS
TO THE DEISTER HILLS.

THE kingdom of Hanover extends from $51\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ to 54° N. lat. and from $7\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ to $11\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ E. long. It is of an irregular figure, and contains about 14,000 square miles, and a population of 1,300,000 inhabitants, which is rapidly increasing; the deaths in 1817 having been 32,004, and the births 47,890. It is bounded in the west by Holland and Westphalia; in the north by the German Ocean and the river Elbe; in the east by Prussia; and in the south by Saxony and Hessa. The territory north of the capital is generally

low and sandy; but the southern and smaller division is hilly and fertile. It possesses many natural advantages for commerce, being watered by the Elbe, the Weser, and the Ems; yet its foreign trade is inconsiderable; the free cities of Hamburg and Bremen absorbing nearly all that is carried on by the Elbe and Weser. The principal seat of the little foreign trade it can boast of is Emden, in Eastfriesland, a recent acquisition from Prussia. With respect to climate, it is rather hotter in summer and colder in winter than in England; but the air is more dry and pure, and sudden changes of the weather are not frequent.

The people, in general, are honest, sober, and industrious, and rather tall. The educated part speaks the modern language of Germany in great purity; but the peasantry, and inferior classes of

citizens are still accustomed to the dialect spoken in ancient times, many words of which occur in the English language. Their form of government is representative; they are not overburdened with taxes; and poor-rates are unknown. Voluntary collections for the poor are frequently made; but the lower classes chiefly rely on the spinning of flax, as a never-failing resource in the hour of distress.

The attachment of the Hanoverians to their lawful Sovereign is unquestionable; their exemplary conduct, during the ten long years they suffered under French rule, is a splendid proof of it. It was the officers of the Hanoverian army, dissolved in 1803, in consequence of the French invasion, who, rejecting the tempting offers of the enemy, and abandoning their families and their property, repaired

to England, and there formed the groundwork of that German Legion, which so highly distinguished itself in the peninsular war: and if, during Bonaparte's tyranny, nothing was heard of insurrections or assassinations of French soldiers by the peasantry of Hanover, it was, because it is repugnant to the national character of the Hanoverian to murder the man who sleeps under the same roof with him, though the instrument of his ruin; and, because partial insurrections, in a country circumstanced as Hanover was, were useless, and therefore wisely prevented by the magistrates, who, fortunately for the inhabitants, remained at their posts, and obviated many of the evils which would otherwise have been unavoidable. When Bonaparte's disasters in Russia offered a prospect of successful resistance on the part of the minor states of Ger-

many, then the people rose as one man, and formed an army, 26,000 of which subsequently served under the Duke of Wellington in Flanders, and fought and conquered at Waterloo. Many were the anecdotes I heard of the impatience of the people to get rid of their oppressors, and more than once the greatest misfortunes might have resulted from the premature appearance of the Cossacs, in the earlier part of 1813.

The city of Hanover is situated about the centre of the kingdom in lat. $52^{\circ} 22' 18''$ N. and long. $9^{\circ} 18' 15''$ E. upon two islands, formed by the rivers Leine and Ihme. It is nearly of a circular form, and measures about two miles and a half in circumference. It was formerly fortified with a rampart, wall, and ditch, but very little at present remains of them; the fortifications being dismantled between

thirty and forty years ago. It contains 1,500 houses, and 20,500, inhabitants; exclusive of the garrison, and those who live in the suburbs. It is divided into three parts, the City, or old town; the new town of Calenberg; and the new town of Ægidius. The city contains, besides a royal and a garrison chapel, two parish churches, one of which, the principal, is several centuries old; it is a plain brick building, with a very high square tower of the same material, abruptly terminating in a small spire visible at a great distance. The streets, in this part of the town, are rather crooked, but more spacious than one might expect, considering the age in which they were planned, and still contain a great number of old houses with gable-tops, the Gothic ornaments of some of which are very curious. But there are likewise many handsome

houses of modern architecture, among which the palace of the Duke of Cambridge, in the Leine-Street, takes the first place. The King's palace is opposite to the latter; it occupies a considerable space between the Leine-Street and one branch of the river, over which there is a bridge of one arch, constructed of brick, and so remarkably light, that, when finished, George the II. is said to have observed, it would not bear the weight of an eighteen pounder; upon which the architect replied, if his Majesty would permit him, he would ride over it upon a thirty-six pounder. A part of the palace is at present rebuilding, and will be made uniform with an adjoining wing erected about eighty years since; it faces the river, and that front will produce a beautiful effect.

The new town of Calenberg contains one parish church, with a high handsome

steeple of modern architecture; also a Catholic church, and a Jews' synagogue; the mint; and the national library, which is a large handsome building. The streets are mostly spacious, and that of Calenberg I consider as the finest in the whole town; it contains several large inns and hotels, besides a great number of shops, and, being the greatest thoroughfare, is always lively and cheerful.

The new town of *Ægidius* is not more than a century old; the streets are all spacious, and cross each other at right angles. The houses are handsome, and inhabited chiefly by families belonging to the court or government; but, as no trade is carried on in it, it looks rather deserted. This part also contains one parish church, the steeple of which is much admired for its fine proportions. But, were I to re-

side at Hanover, I should prefer the Frederic-street, built upon the site of one of the ramparts: it is long and straight, planted with four rows of lime-trees, and, only one side being occupied by houses, affords a pleasant view of the country. There is another new street, called the George-street, likewise constructed upon what was formerly a rampart, and containing a few large houses on one side, but the prospect from it is less interesting.

The streets, without exception, are well paved, and that part which is appropriated for foot-passengers is covered with flags; and all are kept extremely clean under the superintendence of the magistrates, and well lighted during the winter-season; and as the houses, with few exceptions, are painted on the outside, and

not spoiled by smoke, the whole, together, produces an impression of neatness and comfort.

There are many buildings deserving of some notice, such as the house in which the States of the Kingdom assemble; the royal stables, which contain many good carriage-horses, and of the cream-coloured and snow-white breeds, only found in the Hanoverian dominions; but descriptions of buildings seldom convey a clear idea, I shall therefore be short in this respect.

The police is excellent: the doors of the houses are open in the day time, yet theft is scarcely heard of; and though but few watchmen are kept at night, cases of burglary are extremely rare.

There are no beggars in the streets: only once during my stay, a woman, decently dressed, with some children by her

side, asked charity of me outside one of the gates, and it was late in the evening, and she seemed half ashamed of doing it. Neither did I see a single person in rags, which greatly surprised me, and which I did not expect, knowing how much the country had suffered under the French and Westphalian Governments. This fact speaks much in favour of the moral character of the lower classes. A great part of the clothing of the poorer females is the work of their own industry; they knit their own stockings, and spin the thread that is to furnish their linen. The middling and higher classes dress in the English fashion, and British cottons and muslins are universally worn. The dress of the men is also nearly the same as in England, but instead of hats many, even among the superior order, prefer a cloth-cap, with a gold or silver band, which is

rather an elegant covering for the head. But, upon the whole, the men do not dress so well as in England, particularly the lower classes of citizens; for cloth, considering the relative value of money, bears a high price, and the mechanic in Lower Saxony, who earns two shillings a day, cannot so well afford to pay £3 for a new coat, as he who earns five shillings daily in England, and pays £4 for one.

All classes are sober, and though the middling and lower orders of men will take a dram at breakfast time, intoxication is not a prevalent vice; and a gentleman seen drunk in public would lose his character for ever. Smoking of tobacco is, however, carried to great excess, and has much increased of late. They ridicule the idea of its having a bad effect upon the health, or that it is capable of weakening the faculties of the mind; and the

habit is so deeply rooted, that ages will elapse before they are weaned from it.

More rational amusements are furnished during the winter season by the theatre, concerts, and social meetings in clubs, to which the inhabitants are very partial; and which are enjoyed at a trifling expense. In summer they spend their evenings at their gardens and villas in the neighbourhood of the town, or in frequenting the numerous charming and rural walks by which Hanover is distinguished.

The picture, which I have briefly drawn of the Hanoverian, represents him in a favorable point of view. It cannot, however, be denied, that the restoration of the legitimate government was one of the greatest blessings that could have been conferred upon him. The French were beginning to make great inroads upon the virtue of the female part of the nation;

and would in time have corrupted the whole. Fortunately the battle of Leipzig removed this pestilence from the soil of Germany.

I shall now give a short description of the principal promenades, and begin with the one which is nearest, and most frequented at all seasons of the year, that round the town, upon the site of the ancient fortifications. Upon leaving the king's palace you cross the one-arch bridge before-mentioned, and an open space, a part of one of the islands formed by the river Leine, and see before you a water-mill upon the opposite channel of that river, and close to it the royal mint, a stone building of moderate size and rather handsome. Turning to the left you pass on your right a piece of ground formerly used as a Vauxhall, but which is now the property of General Alten, who so much

distinguished himself under the Duke of Wellington, and who is erecting a handsome mansion for his future residence on it. In a few minutes you again cross the branch of the river which runs by the palace, leaving on your left a sawing and a flour mill. You now enter the Frederic-street, at the beginning of which on the right there is a large high building which had been used as a corn-magazine, but was found to be not sufficiently strong for that purpose. It is an unsightly structure and ought to be pulled down. The Frederic-street is strait and spacious, planted with four rows of lime-trees. One side contains several handsome houses, and, among others, that in which the English club assembles, a small but noble building, in the Grecian style of architecture. There are no houses opposite, but, what is more agreeable, rich meadows.

extending nearly two miles to the village of Dohren, which, being generally inundated in winter, afford an excellent place for the amusement of skating. The walk of lime-trees then takes a turn to the left and goes round the new town of Ægidius, till it meets the George-street, which is planted with two rows of the same kind of trees, which form so beautiful and close an arbour, that it completely sheltered me from a heavy shower of rain. Some houses are already built on the left, and this street will hereafter be one of the finest of Hanover, and completely shut out from the view, on this side, the oldest and worst part of the city. About midway, on your right, one of the ancient bastions remains entire, with a windmill upon it. Farther on you have a glimpse of the Parliament-house, a grand building of modern architecture.

Arrived at the end, you cross the main street that leads from the city to one of the five gates, called the Stone Gate. You then ascend a part of the rampart nearly in its original state, having a broad deep ditch on the outside, and cross another bastion, upon which stands the house of the commandant. It was in this building, which has nothing to merit attention, that the late beautiful queen of Prussia was born, while her father, the late Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, was military governor of Hanover. Upon descending you perceive on your left a range of extensive buildings, fronting the river, terminated by a high round tower. The two first are the king's stables; the third is the armory, and the round tower a remnant of the ancient fortifications, when the steep banks of the Leine, in this part, formed the southern limit of the town. After

crossing the river you notice the prison, a massive stone building, secured on one side by the Leine, which runs here with great rapidity ; and, continuing your walk, still under the shade of trees, you leave on your left the catholic church, and on your right you have a charming view of the country. You then pursue your walk, till, after crossing the Calenberg-street, you come to a monument erected in honor of Leipnitz, upon the site of a bastion half-demolished, and in the midst of a small shrubbery. This spot is at the top of the parade, an oblong square, surrounded by lime trees, large enough for about 500 men to be drawn up three deep. At the bottom of this place, opposite to the philosopher's monument, it is said to be the intention to erect a column in memory of the battle of Waterloo. After passing the parade you have completed the circuit

of the town. It being Sunday, a considerable number of people were assembled to see the troops mounting guard; they consisted of foot-guards, yagers, landwher, and artillery, about 400 men, a select body of healthy young men, clothed and armed exactly like British troops, and resembling them in make and look so closely, that, on the parade of St. James, they might have been mistaken for Englishmen. The bands of four regiments were united, and the spectacle was, upon the whole, rather brilliant.

Close by the parade a road leads into some of the meadows on the south side of the town. We went about a furlong under the shade of two rows of birch-trees, till we came to a small shrubbery, and, ascending a low terrace, found ourselves upon the brink of the river, which exhibited a curious scene; it was covered

with beech-wood, felled in the interior of the country; two or three hundred men, in parties, were busily employed in taking it out, and piling it up in rows of a certain height, under the inspection of officers. They were labouring very hard, and, to ease their task, were singing, in chorus, some national air, the effect of which, at a distance, was not unpleasant. From 6 to 8000 loads of firewood are thus, annually, floated down to the metropolis. When dry the greater part of it is distributed to persons holding situations under the government, in certain proportions, according to their respective ranks, at a price of about one-third less than what the citizens pay for the same quantity of wood to the farmers; but having been several weeks immersed in water, it is inferior to the fuel obtained from the neighbouring hills. We con-

tinued our walk under the shade of two rows of willow-trees upon the bank of the river, which is here not above twenty yards broad, but in many places very deep. The colour of the water was red, from the vast quantity of earthy particles suspended in it. It is scarcely ever clear; and when it overflows the adjoining marsh-land, which generally happens once in the year, it leaves behind a thick fertilizing slime. We had walked about a mile, when our ears were filled with the roaring of a water-fall. It was the river Leine precipitating itself into the river Ihme. The scene was sublime, and can only be compared to the dashing of the sea, in a storm, against some insulated rock. The bed of the latter river, which was originally a small brook, is situated much lower than that of the former, a cut was therefore made from

the main river, and a strong dam of stone built across, over which the surplus water of the Leine falls into the river below. The breadth is about seventy feet, and the fall from twelve to fifteen. Inundations, such as formerly converted the neighbouring country into a lake, are thus prevented. This useful work was first erected in 1651.

A kind of fence having been made to prevent the floating wood from passing into the Ihme, we were enabled to cross to the opposite shore, where a fisherman had built a hut close to the cascade. He told us that he had been anxiously watching several weeks for a large salmon, of about twenty-seven pounds, which had made frequent attempts to ascend the falling stream. If he caught it he should have a fortune; for, at the Duke's palace, he should obtain half-a-

crown a pound for it. A salmon in this river is a phenomenon; it had evidently escaped from the Weser, and made its way through several locks. We gave the man a trifle to guide us through a small copse through which there was no path, and then went on to the village of Dohren, which stands upon the river, here, not less than forty yards broad. After refreshing ourselves at an old tower near the skirts of an extensive forest, we returned by a high road, planted on each side with poplars, and paved in the middle; but it was not in a good condition, and required a thorough repair.

Our next excursion was directed to a different point. We went through the Calenberg-Gate which faces the south, and, in two or three minutes, arrived at a high stone bridge of several arches over the river Ihme, which cannot here be

less than one hundred yards wide, being near its junction with the Leine, and makes an interesting appearance, for the right bank is adorned with pretty gardens and country-houses, and the left, about a quarter of a mile below the bridge, contains the wharf, where a number of vessels are always lading or discharging their cargoes. They are long flat-bottomed barges, drawn by horses, which import wines, colonial, and other goods, from Bremen, valued at £70,000 sterling per annum, and export native products, such as stone, lead, vitriol, timber, &c. to the amount of about half that sum.

The instant we had crossed this river we came into a country of which the soil and physical aspect is the reverse of that to which we had been accustomed, from the moment of our landing till our arrival

at the capital. Instead of those wide sandy plains, which, at some remote period of the world seem to have been overwhelmed by the sea, the horizon was bounded by hills, crowned with woods, and a rich cultivated country. We ascended gradually, by the side of a paved high road, the great causeway that leads to the south of Germany upon the skirts of the village of Linden, inhabited principally by linen-weavers, and taking a sudden turn to the right, pursued a path under a high stone wall, which surrounds a park lately in the possession of the Counts of Platen, and in a few minutes found ourselves upon the Linden Berg. This hill is situated about a mile and a half from Hanover, and may be about two hundred feet high. It is composed of strata of lime-stone, containing marine petrifications, and resting upon beds

of potter's clay. Great quantities of lime, which has the reputation of being very pure, is burnt and sold here. Upon the top of the hill is a large stone wind-mill, visible at a considerable distance. The miller's garden is always open for company; and one may have coffee and other refreshments at a reasonable price. This place is much frequented in summer by genteel company, attracted by the beautiful prospects it affords, and the pure atmosphere one breathes. The Brocken, the most elevated of the Hartz mountains, which is 3150 feet high, and distant about sixty miles, may be clearly discerned on a fine day, without the aid of telescopes. It was on this hill that we saw, for the first time in Germany, a field of tobacco,—a proof of the excellent quality of the soil.

I left this spot with feelings of regret,

as it was not likely that I should ever revisit it. As the weather was as fine as could be wished, and we had still a great part of the day before us, we crossed to the south side, and, after walking about a mile through an open country, of which every inch was cultivated, entered the Limmer-wood, so called from a village of that name upon the banks of the river Leine, which we could plainly distinguish, and which was now become a very respectable stream. About thirty years ago a medicinal spring was discovered here, and a bathing-house and other buildings have since been erected. The water is sulphureous and much frequented by gouty subjects; but, as the distance from Hanover does not exceed two miles and a half, very few patients lodge here.

The cool shade of the trees, and an excellent bottle of Chateau - Margaux,

were very acceptable after being exposed for several hours to a scorching heat.

On the following day we took a walk in an opposite direction, through the gate of Ægidius, which faces the east, and, in about a quarter of an hour, came to an extensive sombre but beautiful forest, the exclusive property of the citizens of the old town. It is said to extend above five miles from north to south, and forms a kind of semi-circular belt round the north-eastern side of Hanover. We entered it where it approaches closest to the town, near a tea-garden, much frequented by good company, called the New-House. A dry sandy carriage-road was before us, but we preferred a broad foot-path on our left. The soil is damp and moorish, but produces remarkable fine timber-trees. There were oaks equal in size to the main-mast of a man of war.

A few years ago an oak-tree was wanted by the master of the royal water-works, at Herrenhausen, that should furnish a sound straight piece of timber, free from knots, forty-five feet in length, and three and a half in diameter, but none of the neighbouring forests contained a tree that answered this description, except the Ellernriede, the wood I am speaking of. The magistrates charged 600 rix-dollars for it, which is rather more than £100 sterling, an immense sum in Germany for a single tree; and twelve of the strongest horses were required to remove it, when deprived of its branches. We saw none, it is true, of such prodigious size, but there were many as straight and high as a full grown fir, and more than ten feet in circumference near the roots. We also passed by clusters of beech-trees of great dimensions, but the firs and pines were

not large, at least not so stately as those we saw on our journey from Cuxhaven. Some thousands of young trees had recently been planted, to make up, in the course of time, for the spoliations committed by the French, and were in a very thriving condition.

Nothing is more delightful than a walk in this beautiful wood on a hot day. Your path is everywhere dry; you are not in danger of an attack from either man or beast; and if the most profound tranquillity is now and then interrupted, it is only by the cuckoo or the song of the blackbird. We met not half a dozen people, though it was afternoon and Sunday. Here and there you find a seat to rest upon, where you may read, or write verses descriptive of the gloom of a German forest, and no one will break the chain of your ideas. In about half an

hour our path brought us to another house of entertainment, called the List-Tower, near a common and a road, but of a class inferior to that which I have mentioned. We then turned to our right, but the path becoming fainter at every step, we lost ourselves and soon came to one of the thickest parts of the wood, where the rays of the sun had probably not penetrated for centuries. We were, however, determined not to return the way we had come; for we heard the distant firing of guns, and rightly concluded that some men were practising ball-firing near the place to which we were bent, and the report of their rifles guided us safely through this labyrinth, in which we met with no enmity but that proceeding from myriads of gnats, which incessantly annoyed us. The place to which we came, and where we got a tolerable good bottle

of French white wine and some sandwiches, is called the Horse-Tower. It stands upon a road leading to Hanover. In ancient times, when this forest was still more extensive than it is at present, and approached to the very gates of the town, it formed an important defence against the sudden inroads of the petty powers then almost constantly at war with one another; and this and similar towers served to watch the motions of the enemy, and to defend the defiles, and they have saved the capital more than once from being surprised and plundered.

Almost all the open ground, in this neighbourhood, is occupied by gardens, which supply the citizens with vegetables.

Having thus briefly described the immediate vicinity of the capital of the King of Great Britain's German domi-

nions, in three different directions, it is time I should say something respecting the royal chateau of Herrenhausen, and its neighbourhood.

The village of Herrenhausen is situated on a sandy, low, and uninteresting spot, about two miles and a half north-west of Hanover, and about half a mile from the right bank of the river Leine. George the First here built a palace for his summer residence, and added a garden to it, containing 128 acres.

We left our abode at an early hour, and crossed a beautiful stone bridge of one elliptic arch, over the river Leine, constructed about thirty years ago, under the inspection of Mr. Muller, a distinguished officer of the Hanoverian corps of engineers. After passing the Clovergate, which is close by, we went along a clean paved road, with gardens and

country-houses on each side, and in about ten minutes arrived at the beginning of a most magnificent alley of lime-trees, which leads in a straight line to the chateau. It is, at least, a mile and a half in length, and formed of four rows of trees. The two on the left compose a walk appropriated exclusively for pedestrians; it is gravelled, kept very neat, and furnished with stone seats. The two rows on the right constitute a ride for horsemen, and the centre is a broad paved coach-road. The branches of the trees, on the right and left, are so closely entwined with each other as to afford shelter, both against a sudden shower and the scorching rays of the sun. The termination of this arbor is not perceptible when you enter it, the distance being so great; but the end of the coach-road is visible, and there the eye is fixed upon

the gilded dome of a new building, erected for the Duke of Cambridge. The effect is beautiful.

On your right, as you enter this splendid avenue, you see a handsome stone building, which is a cavalry barrack. It was occupied by a detachment of hussars of the guard. About a quarter of a mile farther, and about two hundred yards from the road, you are attracted by the palace of Monbrillant, where the governor-general resides in the summer season. It is a plain building, with a small park, in the English style, and contains nothing that merits particular notice. On the left, about the same distance from the main road, the king's hunting establishment is kept, and about midway to Herrenhausen, on the same side of the way, you see the seat of the late Count Walmoden, a natural son of George the

Second. We went to view it. The grounds are laid out in the English fashion, but are too much crowded with trees, which produces a gloomy and melancholy effect. The house is unfinished, though began between thirty and forty years ago. It contains a valuable collection of pictures and marbles; among the former are several by

Rubens,
 Paul Veronese,
 Ludovico Carracci,
 Guido,
 Berghem,
 Vandyk,
 Teniers,
 Rembrandt, and
 Ruisdael.

There are also several good copies, and I noticed one, the Woman taken in Adultery, of which I had seen the ori-

ginal but a few weeks before at the British Gallery. But I prefer the statues to the paintings; the collection is extensive, and contains several specimens of exquisite design and workmanship. Among them is

A Perseus and Andromache, of white marble, as large as life,

A Minerva,

A Bacchus,

A Genius with a Bird,

A sleeping and winged Cupid,

An Infant Bacchus with a Bunch of Grapes,

A young Faun playing on the Flute,

A Cupid and Psyche,

A Satyr in a sitting Posture, and several Heads of Roman Emperors, in excellent preservation. There are likewise several statues of great merit by modern artists.

After having viewed every thing worth seeing here, we proceeded farther and came to the king's chateau and garden. In the former, the great hall, used as an orangery, particularly struck us. It is of an immense size; and a thousand persons might be entertained in it.

The garden is of an oblong shape, surrounded on three sides by a canal, and in the stiff French style, with broad, straight, gravelled walks; high clipped hedges, square grass plots with clumsy statues; a grotto; a theatre, and *jets d'eau*. Of the latter there are five, four of which are but insignificant, but the principal one is magnificent, and said to be the finest in Europe, except that at Versailles. The water is forced into the tube by machinery, from the river Leine, about half a mile distant, and when the whole pressure is used, the stream rises

perpendicularly one hundred and twenty feet, provided the wind be not high; but on ordinary occasions, when the whole forcing power is not employed, the water rises but eighty feet. The diameter appeared to be about nine or ten inches, certainly not less than nine. This spectacle is exhibited on Sundays and Wednesdays, during the summer months, from six to seven in the evening, and the public have free access.

The theatre, which I have mentioned, has not been used for many years, and is now in a state of dilapidation. The bare canopy of heaven is its ceiling; and full-grown trees and sprucely trimmed hedges are its scenery. It was originally ornamented with leaden figures, gilt or painted, I believe, but these the Gauls carried off. Two stone Gladiators, in the front of the stage, remain, however,

to this hour. An amphitheatre, built of brick, of the elevation and dimension of the pit of a London play-house, but without seats, accommodated the spectators. Plays were frequently acted here before George the Second, on the fine star-light evenings of summer. The present King of Sweden, when General Bernadotte, and other French Governors of Hanover, always evinced great partiality for this royal demesne, probably on account of the French taste which prevails in it; and they once took it into their heads to gratify themselves and the public with an histrionic exhibition, in imitation of those displayed before the British Monarch. Accordingly, the place was brushed up, and a day appointed for the show: the trees were hung with lamps; actors and bands of musicians were ready; the people came flocking in extraordinary

numbers, from the town and villages, with more than usual satisfaction painted on their countenances; this excited surprise—inquiries were set on foot, when, lo! the day proved to be the 4th of June, the birth-day of their venerable sovereign. The scene soon changed, and the only performers on the stage were a body of *gens d'armes*, to clear and shut up the garden. The French, while they stayed at Hanover, never thought of announcing another drama at Herrenhausen.

We left this place as soon as the water-works had ceased playing, to witness a spectacle still more lively and entertaining.

The inhabitants of Germany are much attached to the amusement of shooting at a mark, and the men of every town and village assemble about midsummer,

and devote two or three days to this innocent and useful pastime; and it is, perhaps, in some measure, owing to this custom that that country furnishes so many excellent riflemen. In the towns the citizens only enjoy the privilege of shooting, of organizing themselves, and of appointing leaders, thus constituting a species of military body, which upon an emergency will guard the gates, or preserve tranquillity in the absence of regular troops. The citizens of the new town of Calenberg had formerly possessed this right of firing at targets in common with those of the old town; but having the misfortune, one day, accidentally to kill a man, that privilege was taken from them, and not restored till lately. The government had permitted them to raise butts in an alley of lime-trees, near a plantation of mulberry-trees, at the back of the royal

buildings. It was the first day of these sports, which were to be continued for three days. They were firing at three targets, at unequal distances; and their performance proved their great skill. Toward the close of day, the crowds of people assembled from all quarters were immense. They formed groups under the shade of the trees, or were listening attentively to the charming music of several Bohemian bands, or walking about in parties. Booths and shows abounded, the same as at a fair, and many of the inferior classes were dancing in places fitted up for that purpose; yet, there was no rioting or disorder of any kind, nor did I perceive a single intoxicated person; and though several *gens d'armes*, here called land-dragoons, were ready, as well as a small detachment of infantry, to quell any sudden disturbance, there was no oc-

casion whatever for their services. The winter orangery of the palace, a large hall, about 270 feet long and 40 broad, was given up for the use of the public, while this kind of national feast lasted. It was handsomely illuminated with two rows of coloured lamps above the windows, and five chandeliers of a prodigious size, in the shape of a bell, made of the branches of trees, oak and orange leaves and flowers, thickly studded with lights, suspended from the ceiling. About a third part of the hall was railed off, and adapted for dancing, and the remainder formed a promenade, where the highest and lowest classes mixed indiscriminately. It was a gratifying sight. The wives and daughters of the first noblemen, elegantly attired, were walking without pride or formality among parties of peasantry; and finer forms, and finer features could not

be met with any where. My attention was particularly rivetted by a group of female peasants, remarkably handsome, who stood a considerable time close by me; it consisted of a mother and her three daughters, the youngest apparently about eighteen, whose figure and countenance might have formed a model for the painter or sculptor. They were of slender make and very fair, and dressed in their holiday-clothes, of humble homespun yarn, dyed blue. Their heads displayed a profusion of beautiful light hair combed back from the forehead, and attempted to be concealed by a small purple silk cap, far back on the head, from which a profusion of ribbons, of the same colour was carelessly hanging down to their waist; and round their snow-white necks was closely tied a broad black velvet band, with four strings of polished silver

beads of the size of small bullets. The whole costume was not less singular than elegant. I found they came from the northern or sandy part of the neighbouring district; and it has frequently been remarked, that both the men and women, of that part, when young, are of a much lighter shape than the peasantry of the southern or hilly part. The difference of food has doubtless a great influence upon their physical constitution; for in the sandy country the daily meal consists of almost nothing else than buck-wheat, a light food, little known in the hilly and more fertile districts.

We returned to the town late in the evening, highly gratified with the day's excursion.

The object of my journey being accomplished, I was unwilling to return to England before I had taken a nearer

view of some of the neighbouring hills, whose woody tops were daily before me, and appeared so inviting. I was in excellent health, therefore resolved to make the tour on foot. Accordingly, having provided myself with a map of that part of the country I intended to visit, I departed at the dawn of the morning. My way led through the Calenberg-Gate, which had just been opened, and the sentinel looked at me with some surprise, but asked no questions.

Leaving the hill of Linden on my right, I passed through a turnpike-gate, and entered upon a causeway, which leads to the fortress of Hameln, upon the river Weser. The road, though constructed of good materials, was, in many parts, in a wretched condition, and most unpleasant to a pedestrian. I had here an ocular proof of the injury caused by the narrow

breadth of the wheels, and that no good roads can ever be expected in Germany, if the law remains silent upon that subject. Some carts were passing, heavily laden with iron-ware from the Hartz-Mountains, yet, notwithstanding the great burdens conveyed by them, the wheels were barely two inches broad. This shape is adopted to avoid collateral friction in the ruts, some of which were half-a-foot deep ; but, on the other hand, the roads are terribly cut up ; and this continual grinding of a calcareous substance, had produced an inconceivable quantity of dust, which is never removed, by scraping, after rain. A footpath, for the convenience of the farmer's wife or daughter, who, twice a week, has to carry eggs or butter to the market at Hanover, is not thought of, though one might easily be made.

The country was everywhere smiling

with a most abundant harvest; wheat bore but a small proportion to the other sorts of grain, though so well adapted to the soil; for bread made of rye is universally eaten in the villages, and by all the lower classes of townspeople; its place was, however, occupied by extensive fields of flax, of which the elegant blue flower produced a pleasing variety in the garb of the gentle hills.

I had not been long on the way, before I met a land-dragoon, a police-soldier, formed upon the model of the French *gens d'armes*. He was very well equipped and armed, and resembled, in every respect, an English light-horseman. These men were raised about four years ago, and have proved of eminent service in securing the roads; for, after the expulsion of the French from Germany, they were not safe for some time. At

present, robberies on the highway occur very seldom. The men provide their own horses, and are paid accordingly. They may stop any one who appears suspicious, and conduct him to the nearest magistrate.

The ground, as I advanced, became gradually more elevated and diversified; and the country was not unlike some of the finest parts of Kent, except that it wanted the green hedges of that beautiful county. The want of this ornament produces a nakedness, and gives an air of poverty. I am, however, of opinion, that such extensive and uninterrupted fields are more favorable to agriculture than the high and close hedges of the south of England; for that disease in corn called smut, so destructive to the hopes of the British farmer, is, comparatively, but little known here; which fact I

attribute to the free scope of air on land not enclosed ; besides, the space occupied by hedges, merits some consideration, as well as the expense of keeping them in good order. But the land I saw did not appear to be cultivated with all the care which it, evidently, deserved ; neglect of proper drainage seemed to prevail everywhere. When agriculture shall be more honored than it is, in this part of the Continent, and men of large estates, and rank, will consult their country's interest as well as their own, and treat it as a science, such defects will rapidly disappear ; that period I trust is not far distant.

After a fatiguing walk of between three and four hours, I arrived at the Steinkrug, an inn, near the south-eastern extremity of the Deister-hills, where I resolved to rest awhile. I had met several carriages on the road with parties

going to Pyrmont, which was this season unusually crowded. One of these, consisting of four respectable-looking young men, each furnished with a tremendous tobacco-pipe, entered the room where I was at breakfast, and, ringing the bell, ordered a bottle of white wine, and some slices of raw smoked ham, which was quickly set before them, with some clean wooden platters, and coarse rye-bread. They appeared greatly to relish their repast, which induced me also to venture upon a piece of raw ham. I dressed it as they did, with a good dose of pepper and salt, and found it by no means unpalatable. This is a dainty in high repute in the north of Germany, but less esteemed when you approach the Rhine.

The good people of Hanover had told me a great deal of the fine prospects from this inn ; but, I confess, I was dis-

appointed. There are some potteries in the vicinity, and coals are also found. The upper strata, near the road-side, had hitherto consisted of a coarse species of lime-stone, with vast quantities of shells imbedded in them, but near this spot they began to vary; at least, the stone employed for mending the road, of which great heaps were piled up, was of a darkish blue colour, with white veins, extremely hard and of a close fine grain; it strongly resembled black marble. I found one specimen which bore the impression of marine shells.

The causeway, after leaving the inn, took a turn to the right into a wood, which afforded some protection from the scorching heat of the sun, which, even at this early hour, became oppressive. Some of the oak-trees were of a prodigious size, and must have stood many centu-

ries. I measured the trunk of one, which was seventeen feet in circumference, and, apparently, quite sound. A company of soldiers might have encamped under its branches, almost low enough to be touched with the hand. The road, in this part, had been thoroughly repaired, and was excellent. In about half an hour the wood terminated, and I had before me a full view of the little town of Springe, at the bottom of the hill, but which appeared better at a distance than near. After passing through it, I soon quitted the causeway, and turned into a country road on my right ; and, as my map could no longer serve as a faithful guide, I had to trust entirely to the directions of the country people. My intention was to dine and sleep at the little town of Munder, and to that place my steps were bent ; but, upon ascending a hill, I lost

my way among corn-fields, where the heat was insufferable. At Hanover, in the shade, Fahrenheit's thermometer, this day, stood at 92°. I was overcome with fatigue, and almost unable to proceed farther; for, independently of the excessive heat of the day, the greatest known for many years, which rendered the human frame very unfit for exertion, my situation was rendered worse by having materially erred in the distances, in consequence of estimating the mile, upon my map, at about four and three quarters English, but which proved to be equal to not less than seven; so that, instead of taking a pleasant walk of about fourteen miles, I had already completed the formidable distance of twenty. In this state of pain and perplexity I was not doomed, however, to remain long; for a few minutes after I heard the bleating of

a flock of sheep, and the good-natured shepherd soon put me into the right way. I came shortly after to the brow of the eminence on which I had suffered so much, and beheld before me, in the deep valley below, the town of Munder, which appeared to my longing eye like a paradise. Certain now that half an hour's additional toil would bring me under a friendly roof, I sat down in the shade of a few insulated trees, to take some rest, and contemplate the varied beauties of this enchanting scene. Wherever the eye turned hills upon hills, universally crowned with the finest woods, bounded the horizon. A rivulet meandered through the middle of the valley, refreshing numberless rich meadows, while the land, as it became elevated, exhibited the different tints of corn-fields in their several stages to maturity. From the turn which the

valley took, the little town appeared to be placed in the centre of a basin, of which the diameter might be seven or eight miles. Having somewhat recovered, I descended, and was soon in the heart of the place, which greatly disappointed me. It was barely superior to a large dirty village, and miserably paved. It is principally inhabited by potters, and great quantities of earthen vessels were drying before their doors.

Exhausted as I was, my first care was to throw myself on a bed, and two or three hours sleep perfectly restored my wonted strength, and enabled me to accept the kind invitation of the mayor of the town to make his house my home. In the company of this venerable and kind-hearted gentleman I spent the rest of my evening, which fully compensated me for all my troubles in the morning.

This charming valley is well adapted for the seat of tranquillity and comfort. The scenery around is extremely beautiful. This is the opinion of every traveller who has a sense for the sublimities of nature ; it was visited a few weeks before me by some English officers, who were enraptured with it, as I was. The soil is of the richest kind ; the lower part of the valley feeds herds of cattle ; the higher ground produces great quantities of corn ; and the hills abound in all sorts of timber-trees, excellent stone for building, coals, lime, potters' earth, and salt-springs, the two latter close to the town. Game of all kinds is plentiful, and the citizen of Munder enjoys the rare privilege of the chase, over an extent of many miles, and may kill any thing within reach of his gun. Secluded as this spot is from the common track of

mankind it is but little noticed ; which circumstance, and the frightful state of the roads in winter, proved of great advantage to its inhabitants, during the French occupation, and they have suffered much less than those of other districts, nearer to the great causeway that leads over Hameln into Westphalia and toward the Rhine.

At day-break, of the following morning, I set out on my return, accompanied by a guide. We soon struck into a foot-path, which conducted us to the top of a hill, so steep that I was forced to stop every five minutes to recover my breath ; but, when we reached the summit, which was covered with short grass, how glorious was the spectacle ! The valley, on the left, still appeared as if closed in ; but, on the right, it was visible a considerable distance, and disco-

vered two or three other small towns, similar to that immediately below us, the high-pointed church-spires of which, as well as the red roofs of their houses, formed an agreeable contrast with the silvan scenery of the vicinity, and contributed to render the picture more enchanting. We now entered a wood, chiefly consisting of beech, and kept gradually ascending, while the trees grew thicker and thicker, and all traces of a path seemed totally lost. After an hour's walk, however, we suddenly came to a long narrow glen, which bore the appearance of having once been the bed of a river, in which a herd of young cattle was grazing. The herdsman, and his wife and children, were the only human beings we met; they had built a hut near a brook, which shelters them as long as there is grass, when the whole

removes into winter-quarters. We had now again to ascend a hill higher than that we had passed, and thickly studded with beech and oak of great size; but we were now in a path well trodden, and, at length, reached the highest point of this part of the ridge, from which there was a boundless view towards Hanover and the circumjacent country. At this spot I dismissed my guide, who assured me I should find no difficulty in reaching the village at the foot, which I could clearly perceive. I had no means of ascertaining the height of this part of the hill; but I judge it to be from 1000 to 1200 feet. The upper strata consisted of a red sand-stone, on which thousands of firs were growing. Here I rested some time, to enjoy the prospects, and to refresh myself with dewberries, with which the ground was covered. The

atmosphere was so pure and transparent, that objects, at a very great distance, could be clearly discerned ; and it is this circumstance which adds such splendor to the rural views on the Continent. England affords exquisite landscapes ; but it happens but seldom that the eye can master all their beauties. Here I could distinguish, without any effort, the trunk of the venerable oak five miles off. The path, as my guide had said, grew, by degrees, very comfortable ; and, about seven o'clock, I quitted this part of the Deister-hills, of which I shall always think with pleasure, and soon after entered the village of Weningesen. By crossing this hill I had shortened the distance to Hanover, about four miles. I stopped at this place to breakfast ; it is rather of a superior class, containing a parish church,

and the remains of a religious establishment for nuns. The neighbouring hills contain vast numbers of deer and wild boars.

The rest of my way home afforded nothing remarkable. As far as the eye could reach, I beheld nothing but villages and corn-fields, and busy groups of men and women employed in reaping.

CHAP. III.

JOURNEY FROM HANOVER THROUGH
WESTPHALIA.

I left Hanover, on my return to England, the 31st of July, at three o'clock in the afternoon, by the common post-coach. I preferred this mode of travelling, though aware of its inconveniences, to a private carriage, on account of the opportunity it would afford me of seeing and conversing with different characters; for, deprived as I was, of the society of my young friend, the thought of wandering about, alone, in a foreign country, without a human being near me with whom I could exchange a word, was intolerable.

The improved Hanoverian post-waggon, or post-coach, is a close carriage, not very dissimilar to one of Mr. Polito's machines for removing wild beasts from one fair to another, with this difference, that it has a square air-hole on each side, about the size of a coach-window, which, in a shower of rain, or snow, may be closed by a leathern curtain. It is generally made to hold nine persons, and the seats are numbered, and he who applies first for a place, has number one, which is marked on a printed ticket he receives upon paying, containing certain regulations to be observed on the road, and an enumeration of the fees which the driver, the guard, who always travels inside, and other attendants, have a right to demand. The body of the carriage does not move on springs, but the seats hang on straps, and thus the rough motion of this precious

equipage is a little softened. Yet this was the best and lightest with which I was blessed for some time.

At the Calenberg-gate, the non-commissioned officer on duty, a very tall soldier-like looking man, came out of the guard-house with a slate in his hand, on which he civilly requested me to write my name, &c. and, finding I was going to England, said with an air of exultation, I was there once, and wish I was there now.

Though we had but two horses we moved at a quick rate, and the way being level, I had no reason to complain. We passed through the village of Limmer, upon the banks of the Leine, and kept for some time upon a sandy road, it was not, however, unpleasant; for, at a short distance on our left, the ground rose a little, and was occupied by a small wood

belonging to the village of Hardenberg. Between this spot, and the road, are the remains of a fortified camp; for, about two centuries since, during the religious wars which desolated a great part of Germany, a battle was fought here between Tilly, at the head of the Imperialists, and the Protestants under the Danish General Obentrout, who was defeated, and slain about a mile farther, near the village of Selze. The spot where he fell is marked by a monument, in the form of a pyramid, about fifteen feet high. It contains a Latin inscription, mentioning the occurrence; but it is difficult to make out the letters, many of them being effaced.

We arrived, towards evening, at Wunsdorf, a market-town, in which some artillery-men were quartered. I saw nothing remarkable except the church, some of the Gothic ornaments of which proved its

great age. The soil hereabout is somewhat sandy ; for the country borders upon that immense arid track, which I have before described, and which extends to the coast. On our left I had still a glimpse of the Deister-hills, of which I now took a long and last adieu. The ground, as we were bending northwards, became at every step more barren ; and, on our left, we saw some extensive plantations of firs ; but the aspect soon changed ; we quitted, for a moment, the Hanoverian territory, and entered that of the Prince of Buckebourg. A tolerable high road, constructed with great labour, conducted us through a wood of young forest-trees, and upon regaining the Hanoverian dominions, which we did in less than an hour, we found ourselves in a most romantic country, for we were near Reburg, a celebrated watering-place. On our

right, in a flat moorish region, was a beautiful lake, that of Steinhuder, apparently about three miles broad, and six or seven long, but which, evidently, had been of great extent and depth at some remote period of the world, and looked like the remains of that part of the ocean, which has doubtless once covered all the low and sandy ground of the north of Germany. On our left was a woody hill, at the foot of which the medicinal spring rises; and here were the bathing and assembly houses, full of visitors from the neighbouring districts. Very pleasant walks of lime-trees, in various directions, furnish agreeable promenades for the patients; while the mere loungers may resort to the hill, or the lake, upon which the beams of the setting sun were reflecting as upon a mirror. The centre of this sheet of water contains a small fort,

upon an island, artificially raised about half a century ago, by order of a Count of Buckebourg, to whom this mere partly belongs, but the thing is more ornamental than useful.

By break of day we were in the Prussian territory, upon the right bank of the Weser, which is here as broad as the Thames near Westminster-bridge; but, in this part, not at all interesting; the ground, on both sides of the river, particularly the left, to a considerable distance, being flat and chiefly converted into meadows. On the right, where we were travelling, there is some excellent land, which appeared to be well cultivated, and the road was, in general, pretty good. But in proportion as we drew nearer to Minden, we obtained a clearer view of the adjacent hills, which produce some of the grandest scenery in nature. My eyes had been

riveted for some time upon a tremendous chasm, in one of the highest parts of the ridge, and I was pondering upon the cause of it. Was it the effect of an earthquake? — Was the mountain composed of a calcareous or argillaceous substance? And was it rent by desiccation in consequence of its transition from a soft to a hard state? These were questions which I was debating with myself, when, arriving upon a spot rather elevated, I beheld, to my utter astonishment, the river rushing through this aperture. It was the *Porta Westphaliæ* I had before me! The rock, on the right bank, called *Jacob's Hill*, is almost perpendicular, and rises several hundred feet above the level of the water. About half-way up, a house of entertainment has been erected, from which the view over the surrounding country and the stream, bursting forth at

your very feet, must be indescribably beautiful. In the latter part of this spring, the quantity of water brought down, by this river, from the mountains of Germany, had been so great as to inundate all the low land to the north of Minden, which is described as having borne the appearance of an island in the midst of an inland sea. What a moment for a landscape painter upon Jacob's Hill !

It was eight o'clock when we arrived at Minden ; we had, therefore, been seventeen hours in travelling over a space of about forty-five miles, and were told that the coach was not again to move till four in the afternoon.

This is a small, dirty looking town, containing about 5000 inhabitants, composed of narrow streets and old houses, and would be very dull but for the great number of military quartered in it. The gar-

rison consisted of two battalions of infantry, and four companies of artillery and miners. They are now busily employed in restoring the fortifications, and making it a place of importance. It lies almost entirely on the left bank. On the right, with which it is connected by a long bridge, many gardens had been demolished to make room for the outworks ; and a formidable bridge-head seemed nearly completed.

Minden is celebrated in history for a decisive victory gained by Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, over the French, under Contades, on the 1st of August, 1759. The field of battle is on the low ground, on the left bank of the Weser, at no great distance from the town. Some hillocks were pointed out to me in the morning as the burying-place of part of the slain. It happened to be the anni-

versary of that memorable event, and the conversation, at dinner, was partly taken up by it; and, among other anecdotes, I heard that of a little peasant girl, who, while quietly sitting in her father's cottage, at a considerable distance from the contending armies, had one of her legs carried off by a cannon-ball. A small pension was allowed her ever after. She was still alive, and had, that morning, been seen in the town, going to receive the money.

I was much pleased with such of the Prussian officers as came under my observation; there was an urbanity of manners in their address, which proved them to be gentlemen, at the same time that their gait, and air, plainly told that they had encountered other company than that of a drawing-room. One of them, of the rank of field-officer, and already somewhat

advanced in years, appeared to take great delight in conversing with me about England, of whose national character, institutions, and military exploits, he spoke in just terms of admiration; but regretted that so estimable a nation should so frequently be swayed by illiberal notions with respect to foreigners, and allow no merit to any one, unless he was born a Briton. I startled at the observation, and begged to know how he applied that remark. Look at the newspapers, pointing to a heap of them, on the table, you will find that we cannot even raise a monument at Planchenois without exciting a sneer on your side of the water. I found, indeed, that the unlucky paragraph, which had given such umbrage, was copied from the Courier, and remembered to have read it in London. This brave man was visibly hurt by it; I, therefore, endea-

voured to convince him that such sentiments ought not to be attributed to the British government, which, as well as the nation in general, had too just an idea of the glorious exertions of the Prussians and their immortal deeds in the late war, to be for one moment led astray by the individual opinion of a diurnal writer. If the services of Blucher, and his army, at Waterloo, are estimated, perhaps, too low in England, the Prussians, on the other hand, are very well inclined to attribute the whole glory of that eventful day to themselves; and it appears to be a rooted opinion among them, that, but for their timely aid, the 18th of June would have terminated as the 16th did at Ligny. One morning as I was sauntering about in one of the little towns of Westphalia, I have forgotten which, my curi-

osity was attracted by a string of ballads hung up for sale; very many of them dwelt upon heroic subjects, and there were several versions of the history of La Belle Alliance, yet Wellington and his brave companions were not once mentioned. But this little vanity is almost excusable in so martial a people, to whom the world is so much indebted for the large share they had in restoring the liberty of Europe. It was delightful to hear, as I did, on one occasion, a party of youths speak of their campaign against France, their almost incredible hardships and privations, and see the enthusiasm and fire that darted from their eyes. Surely, the sons of Sparta, in the best times of that republic, could not have appeared to greater advantage. The age of one, who had marched from Branden-

burg to the interior of France, in 1814, could not then have exceeded fourteen years; he was even now but a stripling.

Though Minden is a fortress, no questions were asked at the gates upon entering and leaving it, nor did any police-officer require to see my passport. This symptom of liberty is very agreeable, and cannot be sufficiently estimated by those who have never quitted the British Islands.

We were not long before the road gradually began to rise, and, towards night, came to the summit of the ridge of hills on the left of the Weser. We passed under a rock, probably not less than 400 feet high, from which blocks of stone of a prodigious weight had been hurled across the road into the adjoining fields below, to be used upon the works of the fortification. Not long since, one of the men employed upon this business had

engaged, for a trifling wager, to run past the spot on the road, over which those masses were bounding one after another, with indescribable velocity ; he escaped, then growing bolder, ventured a second time, and was equally successful, but the third time was caught and dashed into atoms.

Our journey from Minden towards Ham offered but little worthy of notice ; we passed through several small towns, most of which had anciently been fortified, and their outward appearance was nearly similar. The town of Bielefeld, however, which carries on a considerable trade in linen, displayed more manifest signs of ease and comfort than the rest ; the houses had a neater outside, and the hedges, round the citizens' gardens, were carefully trimmed, and more ornamental than usual. The country, in general, continued to be

sandy, and, consequently, rye and buck-wheat formed the chief products; here and there, however, the scene was enlivened by some small forests of oak and beech. The villages, through which we passed, were generally wretched; and their inhabitants had nothing of that cheerful open look which I had observed in Hanover; there was a heaviness and melancholy upon their faces, which struck me forcibly, particularly among the female peasantry; but they appeared to be religious, and as early as five o'clock in the morning of the following day, Sunday, they came flocking into Neukirchen, to hear mass; for the greater number of the Westphalians are Catholics. I also no longer observed any sentences from Scripture over the cottage or barn, probably because the Catholic was not permitted to read the Bible.

On Sunday afternoon, the 2d of August, we stopped at a village, settled by Frederic II. of Prussia, called Fredericsdorf. It is situated between Neukirchen and Lippstat, on a sandy plain, certainly not designed, by nature, for the seat of a thriving colony; and it is difficult to conceive what could have induced that Monarch to select a spot, like this, for the erection of a village. It consists of two long streets which intersect each other at right angles. Near the centre stands the parish church, which serves for both Catholics and Protestants. To this no objection is made by either party, yet they will not use the same bell; and that, belonging to the Catholics, is ornamented with a crucifix. The Protestant part of the inhabitants had just finished its devotion, and was indiscriminately mixed with the Catholics going to perform their rites. They were

all cleanly dressed ; but their figures and countenances were the least prepossessing I had yet met with. Its first inhabitants are said not to have consisted of the best characters ; and Fredericsdorf, for a long time after its foundation, was in but indifferent repute. But I was assured that the different sects live in great harmony, and that disputes, on account of religion, are unknown.

The roads, in this part, were still extremely bad, and will remain so till paved. We passed over a common, on which, one day, last winter, the coach stuck fast. The guard went to the nearest village, to procure an additional team ; he returned with it after a considerable lapse of time ; but, during his absence, a sudden and severe frost had set in, and the wheels could not be extricated without the aid of pioneers ; a waggon was therefore sent for, which

easily made its way over the ice, and the passengers, nine in number, of whom some were ladies, had to spend the night upon straw at a village several miles distant. It was now summer, and the roads were, comparatively, excellent, yet, to one accustomed to travel in England, or even in the Netherlands, no journey could be more irksome; the covered post-waggon jolted most horribly, whenever the road became a little rough; and our progress was at the rate of about two miles and a half the hour; the inside exhibited an impenetrable cloud of tobacco-smoke night and day; for my good-natured companions, who were all Prussians, and, I will allow them the merit, men of education, seemed to delight in nothing so much as smoking, and that at a time when the thermometer was at 80°. Their conversation, however, made some amends; most of

them had served against France, though not all military men by profession, and they abounded in interesting anecdote.

At day-break of the 3d of August we came to Soest, which is said to have once been a place of considerable extent, but is now contracted and in a miserable condition. I never in my life passed through a town equally wretched, at least in appearance; it had once been fortified, like all the towns in this district, but, both rampart and wall were in total decay. A young Prussian, one of my fellow-travellers, and myself, took a walk upon the rampart; a solitary sentinel, the only symptom of a garrison in the place, who, if he had not been a Prussian, I should have strongly suspected of having been asleep, started out of his box in amazement upon seeing two persons, one in the military uniform of his sovereign.

pace up and down at so unusual a time ; but the man soon recollected himself.

About noon we arrived at Ham, the capital of the county of Mark. It is situated upon the river Lippe, and contains from four to five thousand inhabitants. There are many new houses in it ; and the town altogether is handsomer than any I had seen since leaving Minden. The country also began to improve both in soil and aspect, and we here and there saw fields of wheat and flax. It was the anniversary of the King of Prussia's birth, and a part of the garrison, consisting of a detachment of Westphalian landwehr grenadiers, a chosen body, under orders to proceed to Aix-la-Chapelle in the following month, were inspected in their new clothing. It is impossible to see finer men, or any better exercised than these ; their marchings and

handling of arms were performed with wonderful precision; their whole equipment was excellent; and their blue clothing was by no means coarse; few of the men appeared to be more than twenty-five years of age, and many of them wore medals, having served against France. Their great coats were slung across their bodies in front, which, I think, is an improvement; for, if the folds of a coat are now and then a protection against musket-balls, it is more honorable to be thus defended in front than in the back. There is something very prepossessing in the appearance of a Prussian regiment of foot, which I attribute, partly, to the simplicity of their uniform, for there is no ornament upon it, and the whole is calculated for service. After stopping about two hours, we continued our journey; and, to my great joy, we were now travelling

in a diligence ; that is, a coach moving on springs. It was clumsy and heavy, yet a thousand times preferable to the covered waggon in which I had been moving three days and nights. We left Ham between one and two o'clock, and, at six, arrived at Unna, a small town agreeably situated upon an eminence, and surrounded with a ditch and rampart, but in a neglected state. The country, which had been sensibly improving, here became even romantic. About a mile from it we passed by the most extensive salt-works I had ever seen in England or Germany ; they are conducted at the expense of the Prussian government. Almost every house was ornamented with branches of trees and garlands of flowers, in honor of Frederic William, and a considerable number of the superior classes of the towns-

people and inhabitants of the neighbouring districts were proceeding, in carriages, to a public ball, at the Louisa Bath assembly-house, near the salt-works, a new establishment named after the late Queen of Prussia. The ladies were dressed in the English fashion, and flowers and shawls constituted their chief ornaments. We also met parties of bourgeois on foot, some in boots, going to the same place of amusement; and though attired in their best clothes, they could not divest themselves of their constant companion, the tobacco-pipe, with which they were fumigating the streets, in spite of the injunction of the magistrate, posted up at the town-gate, not to smoke in the open street upon pain of paying a fine of two Prussian dollars.

I was glad to perceive these demonstrations of loyalty, but was told, by a Prus-

sian gentleman, that sentiments equally desirable do not prevail in every part of Prussian Westphalia; and this fact was corroborated by others. The reason is obvious:—upon the overthrow of Jerome's kingdom, a great number of individuals, who served that usurper, lost their places to make room for more loyal subjects. It is these and their connexions who now clamour and spread dissatisfaction. And as the great body of the people, during its sufferings, comparing its former condition with the present, had fondly expected that the day of the restoration would open the door to immediate comfort and happiness, and finding, when that auspicious moment actually arrived, instead of such bliss, burdens as heavy, and a conscription equally severe, and these hardships, aggravated by bad harvests, and an unusual stagnation of trade, were but too ready

to attribute this state of things to a wrong cause. But an abundant harvest has filled the storehouse with the bounty of heaven, and a continued state of tranquillity will re-open the sources of trade and render conscription unnecessary, or, at least, not burdensome. Time, therefore, will heal these people's wounds, and render them good-humoured.

We had to wait a long time for our horses, on account of the ball, which had put most of the post-horses in requisition; at length, when nearly dark, we set out, and our party was now greatly increased, by the arrival of a protestant clergyman, and his wife and two daughters, and the diligence was crammed to excess. As soon, therefore, as we were clear of the town, not wishing to be suffocated by clouds of tobacco-smoke, for my new friend was as fond of the pipe as the rest,

and the road being fine, and the evening beautiful, I quitted the coach, with an intention of making a good way on foot, in which I was imitated by two of my companions, and our pedestrian excursion afforded not less amusement to ourselves than to the rest of the travellers, who preferred riding, for one of the two gentlemen, though but young, was extremely corpulent, and his exertion to keep up with us caused not a little fatigue to him, especially as our postillions, for we had two, and six horses, contrary to their usual habit, took it into their heads to move at rather a brisk rate.—At length, however, our fat fellow-traveller was obliged to give in, and it being then nearly dark, we also resumed our seats.

We were now on a regular high road, the best I had seen for some time ; sandy commons no longer wearied our eyes ;

and, instead of rye and buck-wheat, we had alternately extensive fields of wheat, flax, and beans, before us ; the landscape kept on improving at every step, and, at the dawn of the morning of the 4th of August, we crossed the Roer, and found ourselves in one of the most picturesque countries upon earth ; we were within a short distance of Hagen, a very neat and opulent manufacturing town, surrounded by steep and high hills, clothed with trees, forming a circular valley not more than four or five miles in diameter ;—its neat white houses, contrasted with the green foliage of the forests, from which the rising sun was rapidly dissipating the clouds of exhalation in which they had been concealed during the night, formed a most enchanting picture. Indeed, the mountainous country, which we were now entering, appeared more like a paradise

than an earthly scene; for miles and miles, as far as the eye could reach, hill succeeded to hill, all crowned with the finest timber-trees, and, wherever the ground was favorable, we saw gentlemen's seats, or the white cottage of the manufacturer; and this alternation of hill and dale, of villages and hamlets, continued till we arrived at Elberfelt, in the vicinity of which the sublimity of the scene is past description; and I was not surprised to hear that landscape painters had spent days and weeks in these regions to make sketches.

At the bottom of these hills lies the town of Elberfelt, the neatest and most cheerful place I had seen since setting my feet on German ground. It is evidently of modern date; the houses are all handsome and painted, and the streets very clean. Near the river, which descends

from the hills, and runs through the town, great quantities of manufactured goods were bleaching; for this place is almost entirely supported by the loom. The Ex-Marshal Soult was living here in exile, and, if the spot is of his own choice, he must be a man of taste. From hence the Alpine scenery disappears, and towards Dusseldorf we had nothing but an open champaign country, somewhat sandy, but still very agreeable.

Dusseldorf is the capital of the Dutchy of Berg, now belonging to Prussia. The number of inhabitants is estimated at about 15,000. It is much improved by the dismantling of its fortifications, and when the new plantations, upon their site, have attained some degree of maturity, it will have to boast of some charming promenades. Upon the whole, the town may be called handsome.

After supper I took leave of my fellow-travellers. The worthy clergyman and his amiable family had left us in the hills, which I much regretted. He was one of the best-natured men it had ever fallen to my lot to become acquainted with ; both he and his family were evidently attached to me, and I was not surprised upon parting to receive a thousand blessings from them, and an invitation to their house if ever I should come into their part of the country. I was also sorry to lose the company of a young Prussian gentleman, who accompanied me all the way from Minden ; he belonged to the medical staff of the Prussian army, and was going to Coblenz. There is something distressing in parting with those whom we have no prospect of ever meeting again, particularly if they merit our friendship and attachment. I had been very fortunate,

for, from the hour of my landing at Cuxhaven to the period of my crossing the Rhine, I met with not one individual of whom I had reason to complain, not even the postillions, against whom so much is generally said by travellers, and I found the people every where good-natured, and always ready to oblige me.

CHAP. IV.

JOURNEY FROM THE RHINE TO BRUSSELS.

AT four o'clock, on Wednesday morning, the 6th of August, we left Dusseldorf in a new Prussian diligence, heavy in its form and construction, but, at the same time, much neater and more convenient than those in which I had hitherto travelled. After proceeding about two miles we came to the Banks of the Rhine, which is here a very considerable river, not less than 1500 feet across, as nearly as I could measure with the eye. Its shores, in this neighbourhood, are low, and the country exhibits no features particularly striking. The water was flowing very gently, and its motion was hardly perceptible, for

there was not a breath of air, and so transparent that the bottom could be seen at a great depth. On our left, on the German side, I perceived the remains of several batteries, close to the river, which had formerly been raised here, doubtless for the purpose of preventing a landing from the opposite side. We were ferried over in a large flat-bottomed boat, and arrived on the left bank without any accident. The ground, for a mile or two, continued low and sandy, and we soon reached Neuss, a small fortified town belonging to Prussia. It contains some good houses in the principal street, and many inns, or rather gin-shops.

The country, between this place and Juliers, was rather sandy, and uninteresting, but every where cultivated, and, apparently, with great care. The villages, however, were mean, and none of them

bore the outward marks of prosperity. In some parts, the high road was tolerable; in others, new ones were making, which, if paved, will be very good. The wheels of the waggons and carts were much broader than those in Germany, and many circumstances indicated that the preservation of the high roads had attracted the particular attention of the government. We met many carriers upon the road; but very few of the peasantry. This was, perhaps, owing to the harvest, which was everywhere gathering, and for which purpose a great proportion of women were employed.

Though our carriage and horses were good, it was not till one o'clock that we arrived at Juliers, owing, in a great measure, to the dissolute characters of our driver and guard, for both were more intent upon dram-drinking and romping

with the women at the different public-houses at which they stopped, than upon forwarding the passengers under their care. I felt this neglect the more sensibly, as the cabriolet, which is an additional body attached to the front of the coach, and which holds three persons, was allotted to me, and which, in a fine summer's day, is a very pleasant place for one who, like myself, wished to view the country, but which this day, the heat being between 80 and 90°, was intolerable.

Juliers, as we approach it from the Rhine, appears small and insignificant as a fortress, but the works are low and strong, and great additions were making to them, for which purpose many of the gardens in the suburbs had been destroyed. It is, however, commanded, on the side towards France, by some elevated ground. Upon entering the gates we met several

parties of criminals, condemned to hard labour. They were mostly young, and had much the appearance of military men. They were heavily ironed, but seemed to enjoy good health. We met but few people in the streets, which are spacious and clean, and the town altogether looked empty and melancholy. After a dinner, which was none of the best, nor served up in the neatest style, we set out for Aix-la-Chapelle. German is still the language of the country here; French, however, begins, already, to be understood and spoken by many of the middling classes.

The country, as we approached Aix-la-Chapelle, became, at every step, more picturesque; the eye everywhere encounters fertile valleys and hills, either cultivated or covered with wood, and the roads are superb. In spite of a broiling

sun, I was in the best mood for enjoying the beauties of nature, which everywhere surrounded us, but was constantly interrupted by the diabolical temper of our new driver, who was the very reverse of the good-natured German postillion of the right bank of the Rhine. He was a stout ill-looking fellow, from Juliers, and had very much the appearance of an assassin. My fellow-traveller in the cabriolet, a Prussian, who was going to Aix-la-Chapelle, for his health's sake, had reproved him for some act of rudeness, and there was no end to his gesticulations and vociferations ; indeed, the rascal was not satisfied with words only, for he attempted several times a blow, with his whip, at my companion's face, under the pretence of striking his horses ; I, therefore, prevailed upon the Prussian to exchange seats with a young gentleman in the coach

who wished to ride outside ; this, for the present, made the fellow quiet ; but, soon after, reaching a public-house, both he and the guard, though already half intoxicated, took additional doses of gin and beer, which, with the effect of the heat, rendered them senseless and furious. In this state, the guard suddenly mounted the saddle-horse, and, seizing the reins and whip, set off at a gallop, leaving the drunken postillion tippling at the inn, and I expected every instant to see the coach precipitated down the steep banks where the road was raised, or dashed against some post or tree. In this manner we had got to within sight of Aix-la-Chapelle, when the coachman, stripped to his shirt, came furiously racing after us on a poney. The scene that ensued may easily be imagined. All that foul language could do was tried, and I wondered the business

ended without coming to blows. I was very much vexed at this scandalous conduct, for we were now arrived upon an eminence from which the venerable city, with the heavenly scenery near it, gilded by the setting sun, suddenly burst upon us in extraordinary splendor.

This celebrated town, the residence and burying-place of Charlemagne, was founded, in the early part of the second century, by the Roman prætor Serenus Granus, and was called by the Romans *Aquis Granum*. It is situated in a beautiful valley, and the amenity of the spot and its warm baths will always give it distinction. It contains near 30,000 inhabitants, many of whom are engaged in manufactures, particularly cloth. The streets, in general, are not spacious; and it is disagreeable to walk in them, as no part is appropriated for pedestrians only.

Most of the houses, which are old, have their gable-ends towards the street, and the roofs are universally covered with slate. But there are several religious and public buildings, which will interest the lover of Gothic architecture, such as the cathedral, in which the Emperors of Germany were crowned, and the town-house. The strict Catholic will value Aix-la-Chapelle, or Aachen, as it is called by the Germans, on account of the many relics preserved in it. More than 100,000 strangers are said to have resorted to it about three weeks before my arrival, to have a sight of them, when publicly exhibited. But were I to reside here, I should more frequently view the charming country around from the Loysberg, than those badges of superstition for which I have no relish. Upon that romantic hill, which is but a short distance from the

city, and seen far off, Bonaparte had erected an obelisk and dedicated it to himself, “ the Great Emperor of France and King of Italy,” but when his majesty fell, in April, 1814, it was thought proper that his monument should fall likewise, so they threw it down the precipice. The Prussians, however, upon taking formal possession of their provinces of the Rhine, restored it, but with a new dedication to “ Science and German Valor.”

On the following day, after breakfasting, and discharging my bill, which was very moderate, I repaired to the post-office, to pursue my journey by the diligence. I had taken my place the preceding evening, and it was but by chance I secured it ; for, an old gentleman who had accompanied me from Dusseldorf, entered the office at the very instant I did ; and there being but one number

disengaged, the Prussian clerk, after some debating, fairly decided, that we should draw lots, when I proved the more fortunate of the two. I was happy, however, to see the old man accommodated this morning with a comfortable seat, inside, one of the passengers having stayed behind.

It was here I met the first English party of travellers: it consisted of three gentlemen from Yorkshire, of whom one was a clergyman, and he and his nephew spoke the French language tolerably fluent; but the third appeared to be a mere English scholar. They had made the tour through Switzerland, and descended the Rhine as far as Cologne. And how did you like the countries you have visited, gentlemen, and the people in them? was my question, after having answered theirs. “ Oh ! as to the country,

“ it is most charming ! but, as to the people, they are all thieves ; they all delight to cheat us Englishmen ! ” How so ? “ Why ! here they robbed me of a shirt, there of a handkerchief, and so on ; in short, they are all thieves ! ” You have been unlucky, gentlemen, I replied ; I lost nothing but a penknife, and that by my own neglect.

It is impossible to see a finer country than that between Aix-la-Chapelle and Liege ; it is romantic in the highest degree, extremely fertile and well-cultivated, and abounds in villages and gentlemen’s seats. Instead of the extensive and open fields of Germany, the estates and farms are here subdivided by green hedges, and, upon the whole, the country bears a strong resemblance to some of the best parts of England. The high roads are all paved in the middle, and

great pains have been taken to render them excellent ; where the acclivity of a hill was too steep, it has been lowered, and where the valley was too deep, it has been raised ; and the carts and waggons, intended for heavy burdens, have broad wheels. But, in a country so beautiful, so gifted by nature, possessing all that is requisite to supply the wants of man and to render his life agreeable, how afflicting and humiliating to see the sturdy husbandman, instead of lifting his eyes in gratitude to heaven, bend his knees before a paltry doll by the roadside ! For, as soon as you cross the Rhine, you see near every village either a small stone crucifix, or an image of the Virgin Mary, literally a girl's doll in a glass case, before which the devout Catholic either crosses himself or bends his knees. I frequently saw some of the

lower classes perform this ceremony, but never any of the higher.

At a few leagues from Aix-la-Chapelle we passed the Prussian frontiers, and entered the kingdom of the Netherlands. A post painted black and white, at the corner of a lane, on our left, pointed out the termination of the Prussian dominions in this quarter, and a similar post, on the opposite side painted red and white, or orange and white, I do not know which, denoted the entrance into the Low Countries. Nature still smiled as she had done all the morning, for the landscape was equally enchanting, but we soon perceived that the inhabitants were not governed by the same laws. Custom-house-officers, in French grey uniforms and cocked hats, armed with muskets, were here and there lurking about; and beggars, of which I had not

seen one on a road of more than 400 miles, through Hanover and Westphalia, now assailed us in incredible numbers. I had heard a great deal of the mendicants of the Pays Bas, but what I saw exceeded my expectation. At an inn, where we changed horses, a crowd of boys and girls, from five to twenty years of age, disgustingly filthy, and some almost naked, besides several old cripples and blind people, rushed upon us from all quarters, and implored our charity; and similar groups, though less numerous, we were sure to meet at every village we passed. I had been told of the immense number of poor people in the bishopric of Liege, one of the finest parts of the present kingdom of the Netherlands, and had regarded the account as an exaggeration, but what I here saw confirmed it.

We were detained about an hour at a large Custom-house, for the purpose of examining our baggage. The officers behaved very civilly, and exacted no fee. The chief superintendent, in a smock-frock of dark blue linen, over a shirt of the finest holland, was a remarkable handsome man, and, I will add, almost the only good-looking person I met after crossing the Rhine. Taking the people in general, they are very plain, nor are they distinguished by any peculiar form or cast of countenance, like the natives of the northern coast of Germany. If you see a man or woman whose fair complexion and blue eyes indicate a trans-Rhenan descent, you as frequently encounter others whose dark eye, black hair, and short slim make, points to a southern origin. In fact, the Netherlanders are a mixed race. There are, also,

several customs among them evidently not indigenous; such as the fashion of the lower classes of females in the towns, of almost concealing their faces in public, by wrapping their heads up in black silks, so disposed as to answer the purpose of hoods and shawls, and that of the men of the same class of wearing ear-rings. Even the fantastic form of the gable-end of some of the old houses looks somewhat Saracenic.

The peasantry in this part of the country speak a peculiar dialect. There was some fruit exposed for sale at the Custom-house door, but I could not make myself understood to the venders, who were raw girls from the neighbourhood, in either French or Flemish, of which I was told they could hardly comprehend a word, we were therefore obliged to have recourse to signs, which were quite intelligible to

them. But all persons of education, in and near Liege, speak the French language fluently: indeed nothing else is spoken.

After a very indifferent dinner at a dirty public-house, by the road-side, we slowly continued to advance, for the country was very hilly; which enabled me, to my great joy, to walk a considerable way under a shady hedge, among the finest scenery upon earth, for we were now gradually approaching the Meuse. At length, about six o'clock, we came to Liege.

As I was anxious to be at Brussels on the following day, and had resolved to travel all night, I can say but little of this place and the country between it and that capital. Its situation upon the Meuse, and the high and romantic shores of this river, bear a strong resemblance

to Rochester and the Medway. But the extraordinary number of churches, and other religious buildings, with which it is crowded, give it an air of greater antiquity and importance. It is full of life and bustle; and, owing to the many forges, iron - works, and manufactories established in it, the smoke thence arising makes it appear more like a town in England than one in the pure atmosphere of the Continent. Most of the streets descend rapidly towards the river, where they are generally very narrow: we were detained nearly half an hour in one of them, because a baker's cart was unloading, nor could even the foot passengers go by without inconvenience. There are, however, some parts of the town to which this description does not apply; and I saw many very handsome houses belonging to private persons, in streets tolerably

wide. Liege is fortified, and had a garrison. They demanded our passports upon entering it, which were returned at the opposite gate. The ascent of the street, through which we had to pass, upon our departure, was so steep, that our four stout horses could move only at a very slow pace.

After descending the ridge on the left bank of the Meuse, the country gradually becomes level and uniform, and though it is still very agreeable to the sight, it no longer exhibits that variety of features which interests us between Liege and Aix-la-Chapelle.

Our diligence was much lighter than any I had before travelled in, and hardly inferior to an English stage-coach. We moved, however, only at the rate of about four miles in the hour. Smoking was no longer allowed.

The clergyman and his party had left us at Liege, and their places were now occupied by natives of the Netherlands, whose conversation afforded me much entertainment. They opened their minds very freely on political subjects, and I had not been acquainted with them many minutes before I could plainly perceive that the present order of things in the world was not to their liking. A German, who was going to England, who had attached himself to me at Aix-la-Chapelle, and for whom I occasionally acted as interpreter, having, in the course of conversation, mentioned Hanau, his birth-place, one of the Brabanders, a young, inoffensive, looking man, addressed himself to me in French, "Ah, sir," he said, "I know Hanau very well, it was there I had some of my bones broken."—"And how came you, sir, to

“ meet with so great a misfortune?”—

“ I was in Bonaparte’s army.” He then informed me that he was the son of a respectable tradesman, and his father, being no longer able to pay for a substitute, upon his being drawn for the army, and the demand for men being very urgent, after the retreat from Moscow, he was forced to go himself; he had been engaged in most of the actions in Silesia and Saxony, in the early part of 1813, and fought at the battles of Leipzig and Hanau. Having then, in consequence of his wounds, received his discharge, I expected he would have returned to his father’s roof, and remained quiet; but no, so great a charm had Bonaparte, and a military life, produced upon him, that, upon that tyrant’s return from Elba, he rejoined his legions, and was present at Waterloo, but succeeded better than most

of his comrades, by escaping unhurt. The other Brabanders having also taken a share in the conversation, and made some bitter complaints against the House of Orange, I expressed my surprise at it, and thought they had gained at least something by their change of rulers, in saving their children from the jaws of the conscription, and tranquilly enjoying the fruits of their labour under the government of a humane king. As to our king, said one of them, the oldest of the party, he has sold us to England; and as for our children, what are we to do with them, now that we are at peace. Such precious arguments as these were unanswerable; I therefore turned to my German friend, in whom I took great interest, and whose company I lost too soon.

The life of this man was somewhat extraordinary: he was a Jew, and had been care-

fully educated for the priesthood ; but, when seventeen years of age, was turned out of his father's door for obstinately refusing to lead the life of a learned rabbi. With forty shillings in his pocket he found his way to England, where he commenced trading ; for several years he had wandered about in great misery from village to village, offering trinkets and other things for sale ; frequently without a piece of bread to eat, or a bed to sleep on ; but one day, when hunger and distress had nearly overcome his habitual fortitude, an old lady, in a small country town, seeing him pass by her window, sent her footman after him to inquire if he had any rhubarb to sell ; he had none, but, thinking that, if once introduced to her, he might prevail upon her to purchase some other article, or excite her

compassion, and obtain some refreshment, replied in the affirmative. The stratagem succeeded beyond his expectation ; she bought a pair of spectacles, by her own confession, the best she had ever met with, and instead of paying him half-a-crown, which he would have asked, threw a guinea on the table. From this hour success smiled upon him ; he settled at Bristol, married, and accumulated a fortune ; and his wife having died two years since, he had converted his property into money, and placed the greater part of it in the English funds. He now resided with his children at his native place, dedicating his time to their education, and to study. He was a man possessed of great natural talents, and very much attached to England, of which he always spoke with affection and gratitude ; and,

what is seldom the case among that class of people, well acquainted with her best historians and poets.

At break of day we changed horses in a large, handsome square at Tirlemont; and, at seven, arrived at Louvain to breakfast. It is an extensive, populous, place, and was formerly celebrated for its university. That part of the town, which I had an opportunity of viewing, was not remarkable for beauty; the streets were narrow, and the houses low, old, and dirty; but, I confess, I saw but a part of it. The country from hence to Brussels is open and level, and not so fertile as many other parts of Brabant. Fields of buck-wheat were not unfrequent. The vicinity of Louvain, which the natives call Lowen, was the scene of several severe engagements between the allies and French, at the beginning of the

revolution. On an extensive plain, at some distance on the left of the road to Brussels, I could perceive the remains of works, which, I have no doubt, had once served the purpose of batteries.

CHAP. V.

BRUSSELS.—EXCURSION TO WATERLOO.

I arrived at Brussels, the capital of the southern division of the new kingdom of the Netherlands, between ten and eleven o'clock, and took up my abode at the Hotel de Suede, Rue l'Evêque, which had been recommended to me, and with which I had every reason to be satisfied.

As soon as I had dressed myself I left the inn, to see as much of the city as the time before dinner would permit. I had not walked above a hundred yards when I was accosted, in tolerable good English, by a little boy, rather meanly dressed, “ Pray, sir, do you want a cabriolet

“ to Waterloo? you may have one in a
 “ few minutes; the weather is fine, and
 “ you have plenty of time.” I pretended
 not to understand him, but he was not
 to be deceived. I had hardly got rid of
 him, when another attacked me: “ Does
 “ your honour want to see the Museum?
 “ I can show you the way; it is open to-
 “ day, and very near.”

After passing through several streets,
 I arrived in time at the Place Royale,
 to see a considerable body of Netherland
 troops assembled in marching order.
 They occupied three sides of the square,
 and consisted of two squadrons of
 cuirassiers, one battalion of regular
 infantry, and some militia. The men
 were mostly young, but, in general,
 very short; even the cuirassiers ap-
 peared to me not sufficiently robust
 for that species of cavalry, and their

horses were more heavy than strong. The clothing and equipment was, however, very good. The infantry went through the manual exercise ; but it was performed in a slovenly style ; and their marching in slow and quick time was equally discreditable. Upon the whole, the men appeared not to care how the thing was done ; but, it may be, I was spoiled by what I saw among the Prussians, in Westphalia.

When the crowd had dispersed I took a nearer view of this square, the finest in Brussels, which struck me more by its elegance than its dimensions ; for it is inferior, in that respect, to Grosvenor and other squares in London ; but the uniformity and beauty of the architecture of the houses, and their new appearance, being painted of a light yellowish stone-colour, produce a splendid effect. The

park adjoins to it ; it is small, but pretty, and has several shady walks, very agreeable on a day like this, when the sun, reflected from the houses, rendered walking in the streets excessively fatiguing. After viewing this part of the town, and the neighbourhood of the church of St. Gudule, I returned to my hotel to dine at the *table d'hôte*.

The dinner was very good and cheap, not more than two francs, or twenty-pence English, being charged in my bill, wine, of course, not included. The company was numerous and respectable, consisting of merchants, lawyers, and officers ; there were, also, two or three ladies. About one-half were natives ; the rest consisted of English, French, and Hanoverians. Great decorum was observed ; but there were no healths drank. The conversation dwelt upon

ordinary subjects ; and, after sitting about an hour over the dinner and dessert, the company retired.

I, immediately, resumed my walk, and made a tour round the ramparts. The fortifications are in a very dilapidated condition ; they consist, chiefly, of a ditch, wall, and rampart, with small towers, at short intervals, fit only for musketry. The fosse is gradually filling up, and the walls are tumbling down. It must have required a large army to defend this town, which, I think, is at least five miles in circumference. The space within the fortifications is not, however, occupied, altogether, by houses ; for, near the ramparts, particularly on one side, there are gardens and bleaching-grounds. Two rows of trees afford shade for those who walk round the town ; and the promenade would be agreeable, were it kept cleaner.

A few small guns, on a bastion, constituted all the artillery upon these once formidable works. There is a cluster of windmills upon one part of the rampart, and, from that spot, one has a good bird's eye view of the town, which appears to rise like an amphitheatre. Having descended nearly at the point from which I set out, I traversed a great part of the city and returned to my home.

In the evening I went to see the play, which began at seven o'clock. Upon entering the house, which, considering the population of Brussels, is very small, I was struck by its mean and dirty appearance. The tiers are divided into boxes, which are dark, and furnished with straw-bottomed chairs. The pit is not raised, but level with the ground, and paved with red bricks: it consists of two parts; and seats in the first, near the

orchestre, cost a franc more than in the rest. The outside of the king's box, ornamented with the arms of the Netherlands, was covered with a dirty sheet, till the commencement of the play. The house was not half filled. I was, however, pleased with the performance, which was in French; yet, I think, in the impassioned parts the action was too violent, and, frequently, approaching to caricature, at least, it appeared so to me who stood close to the stage. The orchestre was numerous and excellent; but I could not reconcile myself to the fashion of beating time with a scroll of paper; it looked as if the performers were deficient in that essential part of music. The prompter's box, in front of the stage, is also a great nuisance; and the man in it spoke so loud that I could hear every word he said.

Next day, which was Saturday, the 8th of August, I rose as soon as it was daylight, and when St. Gudule's clock struck five, was seated in a one-horse cabriolet, with a Flemish peasant by my side, to go and see that "place of skulls, the "grave of France, the 'immortal' Waterloo." After passing the Namur-gate, the road continued some distance between country-houses of no very respectable appearance, and some gardens, till we came to a large pond, on our left, bordered, on the side opposite to the road, with small white cottages, which, being surrounded by a cluster of trees, looked rather prettily. Here the ground began to rise, though but gently; and, when nearly two miles from Brussels, we came to some straggling trees, which proved to be the beginning of the forest of Soigne. There was a public-house

on our right, and I told my conductor, in his native tongue, for he knew but little French, to stop and take a dram; joy sparkled in his eyes at receiving this welcome order. "Ah, sir!" he said, "how it does one's heart good to hear an Englishman talk Flemish!" which exclamation made me heartily laugh. We soon entered the forest, which is said to extend nine miles in one direction, and seven and a half in another; but, whether it was owing to the regularity of the road, or to the circumstance of the trees being planted and trimmed so as to become very tall and slender, it did not strike me with the gloom and wildness of the woods of Germany. The road, as it is at present, was made in 1698. It is broad and paved in the middle. Where the ground was too elevated, it has been cut through, and the loose earth thus

acquired, employed in forming banks, or dykes, from ten to twenty feet high, over which the road passes; yet, excellent as I thought it, a great number of men were labouring hard in enlarging it. Here and there a good deal of beechwood was piled up for the supply of Brussels; and we met vast numbers of waggons from Charleroi with coals, drawn, generally, by four powerful horses, the leather harness of which was gaily ornamented with small brass nails.

It was principally near those elevated parts of the road, that the most frightful scenes of confusion took place, during the retreat of Wellington's army from Quatre Bras, when those, in charge of the baggage, thought every thing lost, and hurried on to Brussels. My peasant drove one of the baggage-waggons that day, and could not describe, without shuddering, what he

had witnessed at a spot, which he pointed out, where the road rises several yards over a dell; horses, carts, and men, had been precipitated into the hollow below, by those pressing behind.

We had proceeded several miles, when suddenly, and quite unexpected, a turn in the road gave me a full view of Waterloo church, which is a much more striking and interesting object, as a building, than I had imagined. The principal part is round, constructed of red bricks, and surmounted with a spacious dome. The causeway now inclined to the left, and we were at once in the heart of this celebrated village, for it can hardly be called a town.

Though Waterloo cannot boast of one good-looking house, still there is something neat and pleasant about the

place. It is situated rather high and upon the very skirt of the forest, and the cottages are mostly neat and generally white-washed.

I was an early visitor at the *Jean de Nivelles*, where a lively French girl, without shoes or stockings on her feet, ushered me into a tolerable good room, facing the church; and, in less than a quarter of an hour, a comfortable breakfast was placed before me. I was not many minutes in taking two or three cups of excellent coffee, and soon re-ascended my cabriolet, and trotted on to the village of Mount St. John, which is but a short distance from Waterloo. Koster, who acted as Bonaparte's guide on the 18th of June, 1815, dressed in a blue smock-frock, such as is worn by the country people in Flanders, stood at the

door of his cottage, looking out for customers, and, without loss of time, accompanied me to the field of battle.

The ground had been gradually rising from the time we left Waterloo, and now formed the Mount St. John, upon a part of which the village of that name is built. It is hardly, however, elevated sufficiently to deserve the name of hill. On the wall of a large white-washed farmhouse, or rather barn, on our right, was written in large characters: "Centre of the position of the Allied Army." And a little farther on, close by the road, on the left, stands a windmill, near which some of the enemy's cannon-balls fell.

The village is but small; and, after we were clear of the houses, we soon came to the ground on which the allied army was placed, and to the spot, occupied by the Duke of Wellington, during a great

part of the battle. The high road from Mount St. John to Genappe and Charleroi, passes directly through the English and French positions, both of which are upon rising ground, about one mile and a half asunder. To render the road easier for carriages, the ascent, on both sides, is cut through, and the banks, thus formed, may be about a dozen feet high. Upon the edge of this hollow way, on the right, in front of the village of Mount St. John, stands a middle-sized tree, and near it, the duke and his staff were generally seen throughout the day. From this spot, which is more elevated than the site of the village, the positions of the two armies are very easily traced; for the whole intermediate space has not a bush, or a house, to interrupt the view; it is all arable land without hedge or fence, except on the left, where a bank, with a few

bushes and stumps, afforded some protection to the infantry of the left wing. In front of this wing, in the low ground, between the two armies, many of the cavalry engagements took place; and, there, General Ponsonby was killed. The centre extended from the right of the causeway about a mile over the high ground; and the right wing fell back considerably, so as to form an angle where it joined the centre; in front of this angle is the farm of Hougomont; and between this farm, and the British line, runs the road from Mount St. John to Nivelles, a great part of which is likewise cut through the ground.

Having thus formed a clear notion of the field of battle we went on, and after walking a few paces, came to Colonel Gordon's monument. It is an obelisk of slate-coloured stone, and placed on the

spot where that young officer was mortally wounded. On the left, in the road below, some masons were at work in laying the foundation for a monument in honor of the Hanoverians, who, hereabout, fell thickly, in sustaining some of the most desperate attacks. A little way farther down the causeway, on the right side, stands the farm of La Haye Sainte. We entered the garden through a gap in the hedge. Several hundred men were buried in it, and the place was conspicuous from its rising above the other parts of the garden. Vegetables were growing luxuriantly on the graves. Through the garden-door we came into the farm-yard, which is surrounded on all sides by a wall, except the space occupied by a large wooden gate.

This was the scene of the heroic firmness and devotion of three companies of

the second battalion of light-infantry of the King's German Legion ;—all of whom fell ! The wooden gate, which remains in the state it was in immediately after the battle, is perforated with thousands of musket-balls, yet, as long as the men had powder and shot, they preserved the place, but, when that was gone, and could not be supplied, the enemy made a hole in the wall of a shed, large enough to admit a man ; the spot is very conspicuous, though now repaired ; irresistible numbers thus forced their way in, and the contest with bayonets soon terminated. The names of the officers, who fell at the head of this detachment, are commemorated on a marble slab, fixed in the wall next to the road. The fact, that this farm, which is not above a furlong from the main position of the allied army, could not be succoured with men and

ammunition, proves the closeness of the action ; and there can be no foundation for the story which I have seen in print, that the principal officer lost his presence of mind, and forgot to make a hole in the wall facing the allied army, and thus recruit his exhausted strength, for the garden-door, through which I entered into the farm-yard, is in the very direction in which the author of that calumnious tale would have him make an aperture. The farm-house itself, which is a stone building, received but little damage ; some cannon-balls went through the slated roof, and one through a room on the ground-floor, breaking a stone window-frame ; but that was all the harm it met with.

After leaving the farm of La Haye Sainte, we went to the opposite bank of the road, where a field had just been ploughed, and I spent a few minutes,

without success, in searching for some relic of the battle, to take to England ; but, in crossing a field, from which the corn had recently been removed, on our way to the public-house, called **La Belle Alliance**, **Koster**, who was close to my side, and also looking about on the ground, said, here is something which looks like a grape-shot ; it proved to be one, and I had some difficulty in detaching it from the soil. It was probably an English shot, for we found it in the very heart of the French position, and not many yards from the spot which Napoleon occupied towards the close of the engagement. I shall preserve it all my life. I, here, saw the hollow part of the high road, from which one of the columns of the French guards deployed in the enemy's last attempt to break through the allied army, and in which Bonaparte

halted to see the result. The other column of the guards, Koster asserted, went at once over the high ground on the left of the first column, and it was in this body of men, chiefly, that the English artillery, of the right wing, caused such dreadful havoc.

Hereabout, as well as on the left of the Genappe road and towards Hougomont, the burying places were easily discovered, not, indeed, by any rising in the ground, for the plough has made every thing smooth, but by the colour of the oats which grew upon the field, which were ripe every where but on the graves; there they were still as green as grass. Where the corn had been carried, the places of interment were easily distinguished by the rankness of the soil, which had produced great quantities of weeds.

We now came to the public-house of La Belle Alliance, about the centre of the French lines. It stands on the left of the road to Genappe, and the side facing Mount St. John had been considerably damaged by Wellington's artillery. I counted eight cannon-balls fixed in the places, where others went through on the 18th of June. The young woman who brought us some wine and cakes was one of the inmates on that eventful occasion, and had fled, with the rest of the family, into the woods. This house was crowded, on the day of the battle, from top to bottom, with wounded French officers.

Koster confirmed to me the accuracy of the account of his conversation with Bonaparte, when acting as his guide, as published in *Paul's Letters to his Kinsfolks*; that he told him not to be afraid of the whistling of the balls, adding, that

those which proved fatal could not be heard by the persons whom they hit; that Bonaparte neither eat nor drank during the whole day and subsequent night; that he was certainly mistaken in the arrival of the Prussians, and that when the fact was ascertained, he several times shrugged up his shoulders, and displayed evident marks of uneasiness; and that, in his conversations with him, he always spoke kindly to him.

Koster appears to be an honest man, who, I am willing to believe, relates faithfully what he has himself heard and seen; but some of his data are evidently erroneous; thus he would have it that every English regiment of horse, at Waterloo, was 900 men strong; though it is well known that half that number was nearer the mark.

Having rested and refreshed ourselves,

we returned towards the right of the British position and came to Goumont, now called Hougomont. We entered a field of a few acres in size, surrounded by a hedge, in advance of the farm, towards La Belle Alliance. This hedge was lined with light troops at the beginning of the action; and many of the trees had marks of shot upon them, particularly one, a beech-tree, on which those marks were countless. We went along this hedge, which is planted very closely, and in which the trees are from three to nine inches in diameter, and came to another enclosure, in which they were cutting oats. It was formerly the site of a small wood. Koster said, the trees had been grubbed up on account of the damage they received during the battle; but I cannot give credit to this story. Behind these enclosures, and immediately

in front of the wall, is an orchard, to which the English guards retreated, when the former could no longer be maintained; but this orchard they were also forced to yield; and it was in the attempt to defend those positions that they lost so many men; for, when once confined within the walls, they sacrificed scarcely any thing.

After minutely examining this part of the field of battle, we entered a gate, facing what was formerly the wood, and now had before us the extensive ruins of this once peaceful retreat from the bustle of the capital. Ruins of habitations are melancholy objects at all times; they become sacred when the result of such glorious deeds as were here performed; deeds, which greatly contributed to the success of a day; which, in its consequences, will prove so beneficial to a great portion of mankind.

An out-building, now the dwelling-place of a peasant and his family, and a little chapel, remain entire. In the latter, the fire had scorched the feet of the wooden image of our Saviour, fixed over the door by which we entered, but had extended no farther ; which my honest guide was rather inclined to regard as something miraculous. A painting of Christ, as large as life, opposite the door, is also preserved. As to the walls they are covered with thousands of names, for almost every one who goes to Hougomont leaves this memorial of his visit behind.

As Bonaparte so obstinately persisted in his attempts to take this place, it is surprising that he never caused any heavy artillery to be pointed against it, after finding that the troops, who defended it, were protected by a brick-wall. Six eighteen-pounders would have battered the

whole down in half an hour, for it is hardly two feet thick. The garden lies neglected; grass covers the spacious gravel-walks; and the pear and apple trees were growing in wild luxuriance. Next to the English lines there is a shrubbery at the bottom of the garden, and here an English cannon-ball penetrated the stem of a tree near its roots. The man who pointed the gun made a strange mistake; or, it may be, the English ball encountered a French one in its passage, and was thus turned out of its destined course.

Having thus fully gratified my curiosity, we returned to Mount St. John, where many inquiries had been making after **Koster**; and, at two o'clock, I was again at **Brussels**.

I employed the whole afternoon, and a portion of the following morning, in view-

ing such parts of the town as I had not yet seen. I likewise took a walk in the Allée Verte, by the side of the canal, of which so much is said. It is above a mile long, but far inferior to the beautiful alley of lime-trees from Hanover to Herrenhausen; and the vicinity, too, struck me by its meanness and poverty.

There certainly are several public buildings and places in Brussels which deserve attention; but the favorable impression which this city made upon me was owing more to the great number of modern houses, and the neatness of their outside, than to the beauty or grandeur of any collective number of them. The churches did not interest me by their architecture; that of St. Gudule, the largest and oldest, is but a heavy building. The lofty and elegant tower of St. Michel's,

upon the Hotel de Ville, was the only specimen of Gothic architecture which strongly riveted my attention ; and I could not help admiring the portico of the new church of Coudenberg, in the Place Royale. But, upon the whole, Brussels has a modern and handsome appearance ; for, in proportion to the number of houses it contains, there are but few with the old Gothic gable-end, so common in the other towns of Brabant and Flanders. Brussels is, in a great measure, indebted for this advantage to Marshal Villeroy, who bombarded it in 1695, and destroyed 4000 houses.

During the sway of Bonaparte, it lost much of its former importance, and the population rapidly decreased ; but being, at present, through some part of the year, the residence of the king and

royal family, it is rapidly recovering, and the inhabitants are now estimated at 90,000.

I am not surprised that Brussels should have been selected by so many English families for their temporary residence ; provisions and lodgings are cheap and good, and the expense of educating a family is likewise moderate. The climate is very salubrious ; the police excellent ; and though the Brabanders do not like the English, yet, in spite of this antipathy, which, in a great measure, is owing to temporary causes and will wear off, a well-bred Englishman or woman is sure to be treated with civility and attention. It has, moreover, the great advantage of being near to England. Brussels, however, is not a place for the mere loungee ; there are but few places of amusement,

nor do the public walks, in or near it, possess any thing greatly attractive. In short, it is well adapted for genteel people whose income is small, or those who wish to nurse their finances.

CHAP. VI.

RETURN TO ENGLAND.

I left Brussels, for Ghent, at one o'clock, on Sunday, the 9th of August. We passed by a great number of hop-grounds, the first I had seen on the Continent. The soil appeared to be every where fertile, and highly cultivated, and though the landscape possessed nothing bold or striking, still it was rural, pleasing, and interesting. The white-washed cottage, in the midst of a thriving orchard, the abode of a healthy-looking and contented peasantry, can never fail to excite sensations of pleasure. Not only the country, but, likewise, its inhabitants, and their language, differ from what I had observed

towards Liege and in Brabant ; they are Dutch, and so is the climate, for one breathes no longer the pure and dry air of the Continent.

It gave me great satisfaction to learn, not only in this part of the Netherlands, but, also, in other districts, that the farmer, and all those who derive their livelihood immediately from agriculture, do not partake of the ill-humour which has infected so many of the middling classes. All are unanimous in saying that they are contented with their situation ; and some of the disaffected, who fell in my way, made it a charge against their present rulers, that the landholder became opulent, while the townspeople were reduced to beggary. This attention to the cultivators of the soil proves the wisdom of the government.

At Ghent, where we arrived between

eight and nine o'clock in the evening, two gentlemen, while at supper, began to argue, rather warmly, about the policy best suited to this new kingdom. One, who was a citizen of Ghent, was willing to admit, that, in a fertile country, like the Netherlands, agriculture deserved encouragement, but not more than the loom; and being, probably, himself a manufacturer, could not conceal his jealousy of England; but his good breeding would not suffer him to use terms offensive to me. Our drawbacks on printed cottons, and other articles, he considered as a bounty expressly paid to ruin the manufacturing establishments of the Continent. This was his creed, to which he pertinaciously adhered, in spite of the solid arguments of his adversary, who took the part of England, though himself a merchant of Elberfelt.

Being very tired, I went to bed early ; but, about one o'clock, was awoke by the boisterous mirth of three or four Dutch girls, whose bed-room was close to mine ; they had been to the play, and, I believe, now amused themselves with acting some favourite part over again ; for these Catholics, after having prostrated and crossed themselves before the image of their Virgin, will run straight to the playhouses, which are open on Sundays, and enjoy any comedy or farce that happens to be performed. Nothing could be less phlegmatic than these young ladies, and they would have laughed and chattered till broad daylight, if not hushed by the arrival of their mamma. Sleep, however, was thus banished from my eyes, and the only pleasure I had, for hours, was listening to the chimes of the neighbouring churches, of which the effect,

in the dead of the night, is very beautiful.

I rose early, and had a glimpse of the magnificent Cathedral, and the adjoining streets of this populous and extensive town, celebrated for being the birth-place of the Emperor Charles the Fifth. That part of Ghent which I had time to see has an antique appearance, and contrasts greatly with the gay outside of Brussels. Upon my return to the inn, I was introduced, at breakfast, to the Dutch family, whose fair daughters had disturbed my rest; but it was impossible to be angry, for two of the young ladies were remarkably pretty.

At nine o'clock I was seated on the deck of a handsome barge, going to Bruges. No mode of travelling can be more pleasant, particularly on a hot day. One part of the vessel, near the stern, is

raised, and shaded by a tasteful awning. It is furnished with covered seats, which will accommodate about thirty persons. The vessel was drawn by four horses, and we glided along the smooth surface of the water at the rate of three miles and a half the hour. There is no lock, or impediment of any kind, though the canal extends twenty-four miles. Nothing is seen, on both banks, but country-houses, gardens, and meadows.

Shortly after our departure, a waiter came on deck, to take orders for dinner, and, at one o'clock, sixteen hungry guests sat down, in a handsome cabin, to a sumptuous repast, consisting of a great variety of dishes, of several sorts of fish and poultry, and even partridges, as yet a rarity; and this was succeeded by a dessert, equally choice. The charge, including a good bottle of red wine, the

passage-money, waiters, &c. was but eight francs and a half, equal to about seven shillings.

The company, soon after, retired on deck, to enjoy the fine afternoon, except a party of six of John Bull's offspring, who had made a tour, for pleasure, through Holland and Flanders, though not one of them understood a word of Dutch or French. They had attracted my attention early in the morning, by refusing to give a trifle to a poor man, who voluntarily assisted in removing their effects on-board. This elegant party remained below, and drank champagne, at seven francs a bottle, till nearly intoxicated. When, at length, they had staggered on deck, two or three took a nap, though surrounded by ladies and respectable persons. Another, after a little yawning, opened a book of travels, and, having read a line or two, suddenly

exclaimed, "What! sheep! Look here, Jack, this man says the country abounds in cattle and sheep. It is all false; I will be hanged if ever I saw a sheep since we left England." Bravo! The Flemish farmers not having drawn up their sheep upon the banks of the Ghent canal, *ergo*, Flanders contains no sheep! I fear these worthy gentlemen have profited but little by their travels; they would have acted wisely if they had stayed at home, and attended to their pigs and poultry. They were not Londoners. It is men of this stamp that make an unfavorable impression upon the people of the Continent, and rob a well-bred Englishman, when abroad, of a share of that respect to which he is so justly entitled.

It was four o'clock when we arrived at Bruges, where many persons were assembled, to witness the approach

of the barge. The luggage of those who wished to proceed to Ostend that day was immediately collected, and conveyed to the canal, at the opposite part of the town, where a passage-boat was waiting. This vessel, much inferior, in size and accommodation, to the one we had just quitted, was supplied with sails, which, with the assistance of two horses, brought us to Ostend in three hours, a distance of twelve miles, and at the expense of one franc.

The country was everywhere flat and uninteresting, and offered nothing remarkable, except the magnificent canal on which we were moving. Here and there one sees a solitary farm-house, upon some mount, or bank of earth ; and a considerable tract of land was pointed out to me, by a farmer, of the neighbourhood, which, he said, was generally under water during

the winter-season. What a spot to live in !

The sun had set, when our farther progress was stopped by the sluices. A great number of persons crowded round us, recommending their hotels, or requesting to carry our baggage, but an armed Custom-House officer drove every stranger from the deck, and preserved order.

After walking a good mile, we were lodged at an inn, kept by an Englishman. It was my anxious wish to return to England as soon as possible, and I heard, therefore, with regret, that no vessel would sail till the following evening.

In the morning I had the pleasure of bathing in the sea, near the lighthouse. The water is pure, but the place itself very inconvenient, and totally unfit for ladies or invalids. Only two machines are kept. My forenoon was

employed in viewing this fortified seaport, and taking a long walk upon the sands towards Dunkirk, the finest I have ever seen, for not a rock or stone impeded my steps.

The streets of Ostend are wide and straight; and the houses mostly in the Dutch style, with high gable-tops; but the place looks poor and deserted. The best, and largest, buildings are near the harbours, which are capacious, but only fit for vessels of small burden. The fortifications are repairing; but there was no garrison.

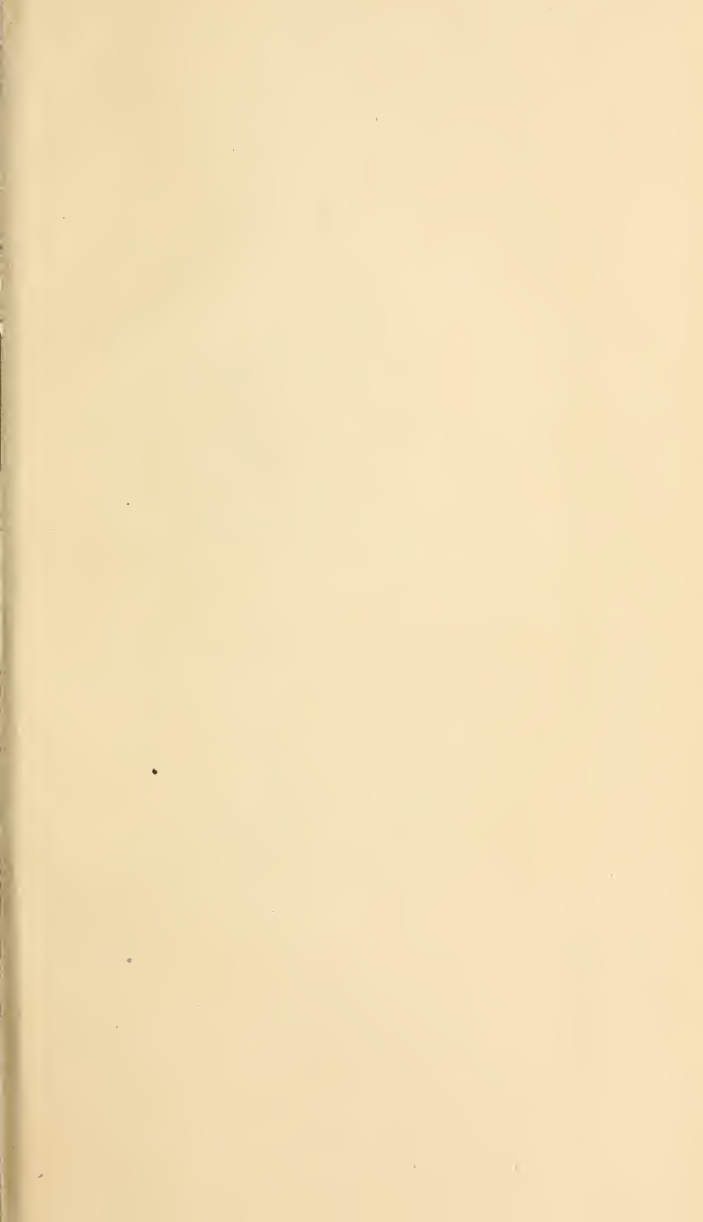
We sat down to a complete English dinner, and the glorious sight of a goose dressed with sage and onions, and the foaming tankard of good brown stout, excited feelings of the highest exultation in some of the company. The different opinions of the tourists, some of whom

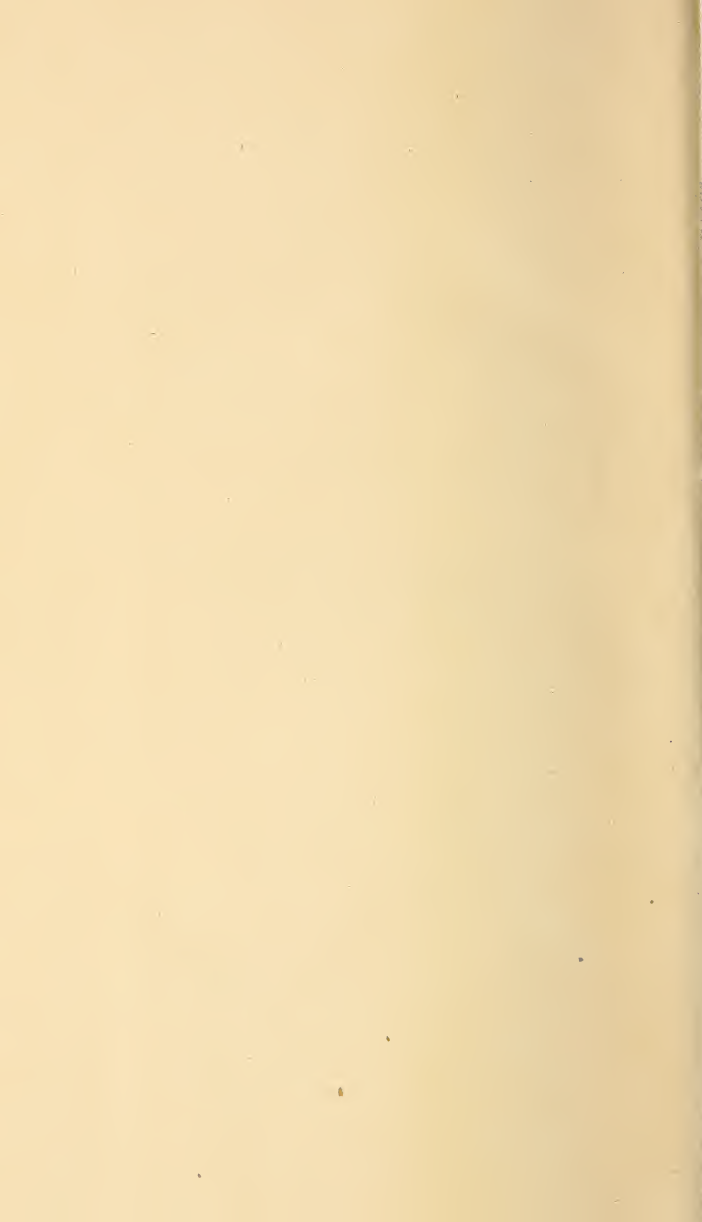
had climbed the Alps of Savoy and Switzerland, while others had waded through the fens and bogs of Holland, were highly diverting. We appeared like sages, assembled in council, to pass judgment on the Continent. But no one amused me so much as a gouty old gentleman, who, in his younger days, had visited the greater part of Europe. According to him, there was nothing but wretchedness, barbarism, and inhospitality, beyond the shores of Great Britain, except in Italy; for the recollection of her music, her dancing girls, and macaroni, even now seemed to warm his heart. Yet this gentleman was a man of learning, and a Fellow of the Royal Society. The final, and unanimous, sentence was, that England is the best country upon earth for an Englishman to live in.

Soon after coming to this happy conclusion, the master of the Fox Packet made his bow, and informed us that his vessel was ready, and the tide ebbing fast. Most of us, therefore, proceeded to the harbour, and, at nine o'clock, we were under weigh, with a fine breeze from the S.E. The moon kindly accompanied us — the North Foreland lights became visible when those of Ostend had died away—the sun rose in great majesty—the shores of Albion once more appeared before my longing eyes—first like a gray cloud on the distant horizon, then, with the addition of a white belt, growing broader, and more distinct, every moment, and, at length, when the clock struck six, I was safe on Margate-Pier.

THE END.

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